

## Shahal could see Palestinian state

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal said on Friday he could envisage creation of a Palestinian state on terms dictated by Israel. Mr. Shahal, a member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, said he was not deviating from official policy, which favours something less than the state sought by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "I must say that in all candour four-and-a-half years ago, immediately after the Gulf war, I was the first to say that a Palestinian entity will be established," he told Israel Radio. "I said in a certain situation, in conditions which would be accepted by us, there could be a situation where there would be a Palestinian entity which is also a state on terms which we would dictate." He cited the solution favoured by some Israeli politicians for a confederation between Palestinians and a neighbouring state such as Jordan. "Whoever speaks of a confederation speaks of an alliance in fact between two states and the word is perhaps a pretty word, but it embraces also recognition of two entities which have an independent political status," Mr. Shahal said.



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# King to meet Rabin in U.S. on July 25

Clinton announces summit, hails it as reflection of courageous leadership

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will meet in Washington on July 25, President Bill Clinton announced Friday.

"This historic meeting is another step forward toward achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East," Mr. Clinton said.

"The meeting will build on the dramatic progress made in the trilateral U.S.-Israel-Jordan meetings here in Washington last month, and King Hussein's recent declaration in parliament that he was prepared to meet with Prime Minister Rabin," Mr. Clinton added.

In Amman, King Hussein Friday accepted Mr. Clinton's invitation (see separate story). The King had expressed his readiness to bring forward the date for a meeting with Mr. Rabin if the United States gave guarantees of aid for Jordan, agencies reported.

Israeli government spokesman Oded Ben Ami said "the prime minister received this invitation Friday and immediately announced his acceptance of it."

The summit meeting "reflects the courageous leadership and the bold vision which both King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin have displayed as they work

together to create a new future for their people and for all the region," Mr. Clinton said. "On behalf of all Americans I salute their commitment to peace."

Mr. Clinton also said that when the Jordanian and Israeli leaders were in Washington for the meeting, both would address a joint session of Congress and join the Clintons for a dinner at the White House.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher departs Sunday for the Middle East, as another sign of the U.S. president's personal commitment to the peace process, Mr. Clinton said.

The continuing Israeli-Syrian negotiations also are very important to the United States, Mr. Clinton added.

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The high-profile summit in the U.S. capital would boost Mr. Clinton's role in the Middle East peace process and could help polish his foreign policy record which has faced failures in Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti.

Israel and the Palestinians worked out their own bilateral peace pact last year with the help of Norwegian diplomats.

But then Mr. Clinton stepped

(Continued on page 7)



## Address to U.S. Congress very significant for economic ties

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The historic meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25 in Washington D.C. will be even more significant when seen against the backdrop of an appointment for both leaders to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

According to well-informed Jordanian sources, "very few heads of state have ever done that," and the meeting may be the first step in encouraging the U.S.

legislature to approve proposals for improved bilateral economic relations between Jordan and the U.S.

A well-informed source familiar with the working of the U.S. Congress told the Jordan Times that "addressing a joint session of Congress, in U.S. protocol, is very prestigious and very significant politically."

Another source said that the U.S. views the opportunity to meet with a joint session of Congress as a "tremendous privilege and an indication of respect for a world leader."

The only Arab leader to

have ever addressed such a session was Egyptian President Anwar Sadat when he reached the Camp David accords during the administration of President Carter.

No such meeting was arranged for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat when he signed the declaration of principles in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993.

The fact that King Hussein's schedule includes such an appointment, the sources said, "is very significant." However, they declined com-

(Continued on page 7)

## 2 Palestinians shot in Hebron clash

HEBRON (AFP) — Two Palestinian youths were shot and slightly wounded on Friday during clashes with the Israeli army in the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian hospital officials said. Soldiers opened fire and directed teargas at stone-throwing youths in the town centre. A soldier received slight head wounds from the stones, military sources said.

## Media triumph seen in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The temporary lifting of a ban on unofficial news broadcasts marked a political defeat for Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and could plunge the government into crisis, opposition newspapers said here Friday. The Lebanese parliament on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to allow private radio and television stations to broadcast news and political programmes, in the face of government opposition. Mr. Hariri, who opposed parliament's resolution, failed to attend the heated debate due to sickness. A headline in the opposition daily Al Safir, close to Syria, said: "Political defeat for Hariri in parliament, media win the battle by temporarily recovering political freedom." Nida Al Watan, a newspaper staunchly hostile to the prime minister, said the government was now "under threat after Hariri's defeat."

## Russian envoy arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — An envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin has arrived in Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders on the Middle East peace process, Russian officials said Friday. Viktor Possovalyuk, who heads the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa section, was due to meet Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra. The Russian envoy arrived late Thursday, after attending a meeting of the multilateral Middle East steering committee in Tabarka, Tunisia (see page 2). Mr. Possovalyuk told reporters in Tabarka he hoped Syria and Lebanon would join the multilateral

## Qudah reelected JPA chief in heavily personalised clash

By Natasha Buhkari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Suleiman Qudah, the incumbent president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), yesterday won reelection for a second two-year term after a tough battle with two prominent journalists who eventually combined forces in a bid to beat him.

Mr. Qudah, who is the leading Arabic daily Al Ra'i's chief editor, won presidency of the 258-member association with 128 votes from 129 members, after a tough two-year term after a tough battle with two prominent journalists who eventually combined forces in a bid to beat him.

Mr. Qudah's support was drawn mainly from the two major Arabic dailies, Al Ra'i and Al Dustour, whose jour-

nalists, about 100 members of the JPA usually vote in bloc against independent candidates and those who work for Petra, the official news agency, with about 70 votes.

Journalists say that Mr. Mahadin and Qawar had fought what they called "the powerful monopoly employers have over their employees," demanding "rights for journalists" that they do not enjoy now.

Elected for the association's council were three JPA members representing private sector newspapers, three newspapers' owners, and three representing the government owned Petra.

Those elected from private sector newspapers were: Samir Hiyari of Al Ra'i with 127 votes, Mousa Hawashdeh of Al Dustour with 113 votes, and Mohammad Saleh Du'meh, also from Al Dustour, with 94 votes.

Newspapers' owners elected for the JPA council were: Fakhri Abu Hamdeh (Al Faris magazine) with 140

Mahadin, on the other hand, was supported mainly by journalists working for Petra, which he headed for nine months last year.

Messrs Mahadin and Qawar had fought what they called "the powerful monopoly employers have over their employees," demanding "rights for journalists" that they do not enjoy now.

Elected for the association's council were three JPA members representing private sector newspapers, three newspapers' owners, and three representing the government owned Petra.

From Petra, elected for the JPA's council were Mamoun Baidoun with 130 votes, Mohammad Saleh Al Abbadi with 95 votes, and Ali Abu Tabanah with 82 votes.

Out of the 25 JPA members eligible to vote, six failed to attend the polls.



Suleiman Al Qudah

votes, Islamist Hilmi Asmar (Al Sabeeb) with 112 votes, and Seif Al Sharif (Al Dustour) with 111 votes.

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to attend the polls.

parties, along with popular committees for the defence of Aden.

It said the security apparatus in the city would be rebuilt "on new bases to enable the restoration of stability and calm."

"Urgent measures" were also announced to tackle shortages of water, food and electricity.

Supplies of drinking water would be restored in Aden and Al Hutha, 20 kilometres north of the city, and pumping stations repaired.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Aden's 500,000 residents were still suffering from severe water shortages.

Distribution of drinking water was "insufficient," an ICRC spokesman said.

The ICRC is still repairing Aden's only water pumping station at Bir Nasser, 15 kilometres to the north, which was destroyed by fighting.

The government decided to "disband all military or private armed gangs, including those loyal to political

several weeks, the spokesman said.

Residents are collecting water from some 40 wells in Aden, and the ICRC is bringing in water from the Lahaj region to the north, using seven tanker trucks, but supplies were still "a big problem," the spokesman said.

The government appealed for help from "fraternal and friendly" countries to deal with the ravages of the war, which it said was provoked by the southern "rebels" loyal to breakaway leader Ali Salem Al Beidh.

Mr. Saleh pledged Tuesday that life would return to normal "within 30 days."

The president is due to open the first post-war session of parliament in Sanaa Saturday, officials said in the Yemeni capital, adding that he would make "an important speech."

A leader of the Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) said YSP deputies would attend parliament for the first time in many

(Continued on page 7)

President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Other measures were envisaged for the administration and civil service, health and the environment, education, information and development of a market economy.

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(Continued on page 7)

## Israel seen to break new ground with Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has taken its biggest step yet to try to break a deadlock with Syria ahead of a peace mission by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, officials and commentators said on Friday.

They described as "far-reaching" remarks by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Thursday that Israel had repeatedly accepted the concept of Syrian sovereignty in the Golan Heights since their seizure by Israel in the 1967 war.

Mr. Peres had said: "We admitted to Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights time after time."

He made the comments even as the Middle East peace spotlight focused on the first negotiations in the region between Israel and Jordan due to be attended next week by Mr. Peres, Mr. Christopher and their Jordanian counterpart, Abdul Salam Majali.

To support his argument, Mr. Peres cited a government decision to negotiate with Syria just after the 1967 war on the basis of the international border and Israeli

bigger and more far-reaching step towards Syria than ever before, in an effort to take the peace talks out of stalemate," diplomatic correspondent Aluf Ben wrote in the newspaper Haaretz about Mr. Peres' comments.

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To support his argument, Mr. Peres cited a government decision to negotiate with Syria just after the 1967 war on the basis of the international border and Israeli

borders.

"Now that there is such a big change and there is a readiness on the Arab side to negotiate with us on peace, I believe that the old resolution of '67 is still valid," Mr. Peres told Israel radio.

An Israeli official speaking on condition he not be identified said Mr. Peres apparently wanted to break an impasse in Israel's three-year-old peace talks with Syria.

The talks have been stuck with Israel refusing to say how much land it will return until Syria commits to "full peace."

"Israel yesterday took a

step towards Syria that was

far-reaching," he added.

Later he spoke of threats to the peace process.

"There are some attempts to destroy the peace deal — not only by the Hebron massacre but also by the closure of Jerusalem," Mr. Peres said without elaborating.

"We have the right to raise the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem and the walls of Jerusalem and the churches of Jerusalem and the minarets of Jerusalem," Mr. Peres said.

More than a year ago, after a spate of Arab attacks on Israelis, Israel barred Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Israel and Arab East Jerusalem, which Israel seized and "annexed" in 1967.

The closure is eased and tightened periodically but has never been lifted completely.

"The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was done by Baruch Goldstein but not as an individual act. There is an organisation behind it," Mr. Peres said without elaborating.

An Israeli inquiry into the massacre found Goldstein, who was killed by survivors, acted alone.

More than a year ago, after a spate of Arab attacks on Israelis, Israel barred Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Israel and Arab East Jerusalem, which Israel seized and "annexed" in 1967.

Mr. Peres said Israel had backed for his deal.

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## Multilaterals continue to complement bilateral talks

TABAKRA, Tunisia (USA) — The working groups of the Middle East Multilateral Steering Group "continue to complement the bilateral negotiations and acting as a catalyst for progress" toward peace, says Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

Following steering group meeting in Tabakra, Tunisia, Mr. Pelletreau told a news conference that the group "welcomed the progress achieved in the bilateral talks, including the conclusion of the May 4 Gaza-Jericho agreement, and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement to intensify their bilateral negotiations in the region."

The Middle East Multilateral Steering Group met July 12-13 in Tabakra, Tunisia. The Steering Group which is composed of core parties from the Middle East, the United States and Russia, as co-sponsors of the peace process, and extra-regional parties who have taken responsibility for the multilateral working groups, monitors, evaluates and guides the activities of all the working groups. All the participants contributed to a serious and fruitful dialogue on important organisational and substantive issues. They expressed their appreciation to the government of Tunisia for its valuable contribution to the success of the peace process and for its gracious hosting of this meeting.

During this meeting, the Steering Group took note of the significant accomplishments in each working group since the Tokyo Steering Group meeting.

— The Arms Control and Regional Security Working Group approved the establishment of an ACRS communication network; the holding of a search and rescue demonstration in the Mediterranean; and continuing the efforts to finalise a document on security relations. The group also continued its discussions in such areas as verification and the concept of a Conflict Prevention/Regional Security Centre.

— The Environment Working Group approved further work on an environmental code of conduct and projects on oil contingencies in the upper Gulf of Aqaba, desertification and wastewater treatment in small communities.

— The Regional Economic Development Working Group drafted economic guidelines for regional cooperation, established a monitoring committee to monitor implementation of the Copenhagen Action Plan, and announced the establishment of a Peace Process Information Bank.

— The Refugee Working Group developed projects to alleviate the plight of Palestinian refugees and promote self-sufficiency, including projects such as the construction or renovation of training centres, schools and health clinics, plans to improve child welfare and public health and ongoing support for the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics. The group also encouraged progress in the area of family reunification.

— The Water Working Group approved an Omani proposal for a regional desalination research centre, an Israeli proposal to rehabilitate municipal water supply systems, and a proposal for wastewater treatment and reuse facilities.

— The Water Working Group also had an extensive discussion on the guidelines for regional development and a paper on the future of the region. Delegations provided extensive comments on both the substance and purpose of the documents and the method for completing them. The guidelines will serve as a framework of key elements for regional cooperation and will establish a common set of procedures for all the working groups. The paper on the future of the region will serve as a vision for what the Middle East region will look like in ten years and will assist the parties in setting specific priorities for the working groups.

— The Steering Group approved the following venues for the next round of working groups, which will take place before the end of 1994:

— Arms Control and Regional Security Working Group — Tunisia.

— Environment Working Group — Bahrain.

— Refugee Working Group — Turkey.

— Regional Economic Development — Germany.

— Water — Greece.

Answering questions, Mr. Pelletreau said: "From the beginning of the multilateral process the co-sponsors and the multilateral Steering Group have encouraged Syria and Lebanon to join this process and to participate, and we continue to do so. We think it would be beneficial if they were able to participate in the work of the multilateral groups."



HOUSING: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (centre) flanked by administrator for U.S. Affairs for International Development J. Rayan Atwood (left) and U.S. Ambassador to Tel Aviv Edward Djerejian, inaugurate the

first American-funded housing project that is to provide nearly 200 families with homes in the Jabaifiya refugee camp on the Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

## Somalia provided lessons for crises to come, ex-officials say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Somalia became a symbol for many Americans of unwise and costly overseas involvement. But the operation also provided lessons for future crises such as Haiti and lived up to its name of "Operation Restore Hope," say U.S. officials who coped with Somali famine and chaos.

"Our intervention saved three years worth of women and children" in the East African country who otherwise could have died of starvation, disease or violence, said Chester A. Crocker, for assistant secretary of state for Africa.

In the public mind, the Somalia experience became "a symbol" for the unacceptable costs of humanitarian intervention and the kind of involvement to be avoided, the U.S. Institute for Peace, a private research group headed by Mr. Crocker, said in a report Wednesday.

Twenty-one U.S. troops were killed and 78 wounded in clashes in Somalia in 1993, building pressure for the American withdrawal concluded last March.

However, the report said, "the real lessons of Somalia create reasonable hope that can be built upon in making humanitarian intervention and assertive peacekeeping wise and steady tools in managing" foreign crises lying ahead. Civil war and "the horrific ravages of famine" were halted, it noted.

"I'm sure the U.S. military establishment is trying very, very hard to draw the proper lessons from what went well and what failed" in Somalia, said Mr. Crocker.

said one of the report's authors, Robert Oakley, who was special U.S. envoy to Somalia in 1992-93 under Presidents Bush and Clinton.

Among "positive lessons from Somalia" listed in the report:

— Early preventive diplomacy can avert crises. It said the international community missed at least three opportunities to act against former dictator Mohammad Siad Barre before he left Somalia in 1992 and the country slid into anarchy.

— Need for United Nations reform, without "bureaucratic separation of humanitarian, military, political and financial activities...

— Public consensus has to be strong enough to support the human costs, and U.S. intervention should be undertaken and maintained with strong domestic political backing.

— Decisions about intervention "will never be easy, and there is every expectation that the United States will face an increasing number of such decisions, for which contingency plans are needed."

— If intervention is based on willingness to use force, "the rules of engagement must be along classic military lines rather than taking the traditional U.N. approach of firing only in self-defence...

— Possibilities for non-U.N. multilateral action by regional and other groups should be developed.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Rabin had secret meeting with Mahathir

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had a secret meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad in Paris at the beginning of July. Israeli Television reported Thursday. The meeting took place when Mr. Rabin went to receive a U.N. peace prize with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine leader Yasser Arafat on July 6. The television said without elaborating, Mr. Mahathir paid an official visit to Paris between July 6 and 8. Israel and Malaysia do not have diplomatic relations. A recent Israeli television report said that Prince Abdullah Abdul Rahman, the younger brother of Malaysia's King Tuanku Ja'afar Abdul Rahman, paid a secret visit to Israel in mid-June, during which he met Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres.

### Southeast Asia boosts Israeli arms sales

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli arms exports jumped 20 per cent last year to reach \$1.8 billion, a sizeable amount due to southeast Asia, the Haaretz newspaper reported Friday. The daily, quoting military officials, said new markets in southeast Asia and Eastern Europe accounted for most of the sales. The officials did not give a breakdown of the figures or the countries, but noted that the world arms market was in recession and claimed Israel was the sole country to improve exports. Haaretz said between 1975 and 1992 Israel's arms exports leapt 75 per cent in world market which had contracted by 54 per cent. The Israel Aircraft Industries, the country's biggest arms seller, has orders worth \$2.5 billion and a turnover last year of \$1.45 billion, three-quarters of which went to export. Israeli Military Industries, the second biggest public firm after aircraft industries, exported \$250 million of equipment last year or 60 per cent of turnover, the paper added. The Israeli government does not release figures for arms sales.

### FIDA party members cross to Jericho

AMMAN (R) — Fifteen senior members of Palestinian official Yasser Arafat's FIDA party, turned back by Israel on Wednesday, crossed the Jordan River to the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho on Friday, a party spokesman said. "Their bus crossed the bridge to the other side (Israeli occupied West Bank) without any complications, after the Jordanian liaison officer confirmed from the Israeli side their names were there," a FIDA spokesman told Reuters. Three were turned back by the Jordanian bridge authorities because they had non-Jordanian travel documents. Israel prevented them from entering the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho from Jordan on Wednesday after it imposed a ban on entry of Palestinian officials into self-rule areas. It was lifted on Thursday after four blacklisted Palestinians who entered Gaza with Yasser Arafat on Tuesday left the area on Israeli orders.

## Gaza and Jericho face uphill struggle

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian economic experts, keen to rebuild the discredited infrastructure of the autonomous Gaza and Jericho areas, warn the peace process could be jeopardised if the necessary funds are not made available.

"The situation is very difficult," said Hassan Abu Libdeh, deputy head of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

The \$42 million so far released by aid donors to fund Palestinian self-rule "are not even enough to cover the costs of the next two months," he said.

Donor countries have pledged \$720 million in financial aid for the Palestinians for 1994 and about \$2.4 billion over a five-year period. But they have set conditions for the methods of payment and monitoring how the money is spent.

The Palestinians regard such restrictions as interference in their economic and even political affairs.

Recently the Palestinians decided to put the management of funds destined for the Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho in the hands of a subsidiary of the powerful U.S. Merchant bank Morgan Stanley.

But the aid donors remain cautious.

The European Union, Japan, Norway, Russia, Canada and the United States are the main donor countries.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said the donor countries could decide through which channels the funds would be released, but the Palestinians should decide on spending priorities.

He called on the new Palestinian Authority to draw up a development programme "as soon as possible."

Observers say relations between PECDAR and the self-rule authority are strained because both want control over how the aid money is used.

PECDAR accused the authority of delaying implementation of its recommendations on introducing a financial system and tax collection.

In Jericho dozens of Palestinian farmers protested Wednesday over the construction of new buildings on agricultural land, which is the enclave's main resource.

And in Gaza businessmen protested outside the Investment and Development Department, demanding special entry permits for Israel and the West Bank and protection for their products against Israeli competition.

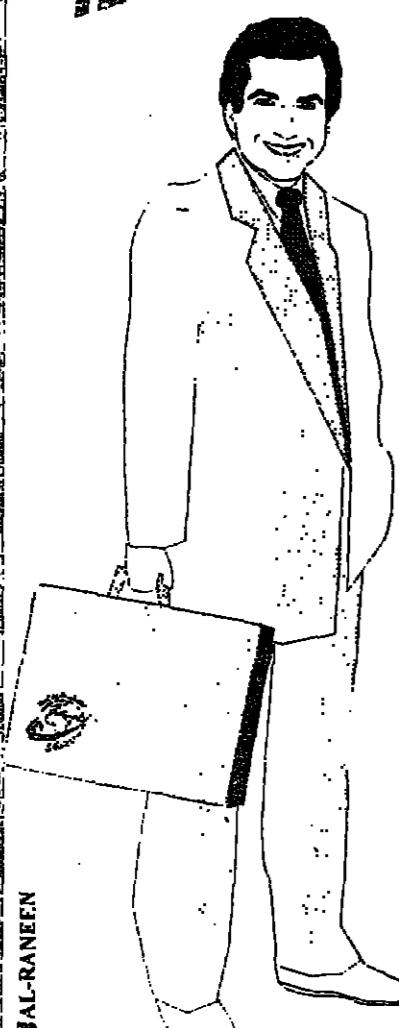
Only 20,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are allowed to work in Israel.

The per capita annual gross national product of the Strip is \$780 dollars, compared with \$1,000 in Israel.

in the West."

"Since 1993, these \$100 bills, as well as illegal drugs, have become the primary currency for the expanding international system that sustains the growing nuclear trade for the radical states of the Middle East," McCollum said. "These states provide the Italian mafia with counterfeit dollars and drugs at a reduced price as payment for nuclear goods."

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17:30 ... Fanomatic

18:30 ... Le Monde Sous Marin

18:45 ... News in English

19:00 ... News in Hebrew

19:00 ... World Cup Soccer Match

20:00 ... News in Arabic

20:30 ... The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

22:00 ... The Campbell

22:20 ... News in English

Feature Film: "Laura Lansing  
Slept Here"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:03 ... Fajr

05:15 ... (Sunrise) Duhr

12:41 ... Asr

16:22 ... Magrib

19:48 ... Isha

21:29 ... Isha

22:00 ... Isha

22:20 ... Isha

22:45 ... Isha

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## King receives Islamic scholars

### Meeting on Zakat, social solidarity ends with agreement to form international organisation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein welcomed Muslim scholars who took part in the three-day meetings on Zakat and social solidarity in Islam and called on them to address Islamic causes in accordance with firm and definite principles and to further the implementation of Islamic unity.

During an audience Thursday with the scholars and researchers participating in the third seminar, organised by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation), King Hussein said "we, as well as all other people in the Islamic World, are awaiting the benefits of each one of your meetings."

King Hussein said he was pleased that the meetings have been held in Jordan and

he hoped for more such gatherings to address important Islamic issues.

"It gives us pleasure and satisfaction to see such meetings, involving Muslim scholars and researchers, representing all Islamic schools of thought, held frequently to achieve the unity of the Umma and chart its future course," the King said.

President of Al al Bayt Foundation Nasereddin Al Assad thanked King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for their patronage of the seminar and their continued support for the foundation.

Dr. Assad added that Prince Hassan had proposed several years ago the establishment of an international Islamic Zakat organisation to help the needy in the various

Islamic nations.

The audience was attended by Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, King Hussein's special advisors Khalid Karaki and Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, and Royal Court Imam Ahmad Helayel.

The three-day seminar concluded here Thursday and adopted several recommendations aimed at reaching practical solutions on the best means to employ Zakat to address the poverty problem at both the community and Islamic Umma levels.

Participants welcomed Prince Hassan's proposal to set up an international Islamic Zakat organisation and

express our total rejection of this unjust embargo on Iraq."

## Party coalition appeals for end to 4-year-old sanctions on Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A coalition of 18 Jordanian political parties is appealing to heads of states and governments to seek an end to the nearly four-year-old international sanctions against Iraq by influencing the United Nations Security Council.

The appeals, which were also sent to political parties in Arab, Islamic and foreign countries, came as part of a campaign undertaken by the coalition, which was announced during a visit to Jordan last month by a senior delegation representing the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party in Iraq.

Participants entrusted Al al Bayt Foundation with publishing a book including all research papers agreed upon during the seminar and issuing a complete text of the deliberations, debates and questions covered during the seminar.

They also agreed to hold the fourth seminar in 1995 under the theme "The Importance of Islamic Property (Waqt) in Today's World."

It said the Baghdad government had abided by all requirements of the U.N. ceasefire terms that ended the Gulf war that liberated Kuwait in early 1991 and that there was no legal or moral justification for the continuation of the sanctions.

In its message to foreign leaders and the U.N. secretary-general, the coalition said: "While we strongly condemn the siege imposed on Iraq since it represents an explicit violation of the human and national rights of the Iraqi people and the Arab Nation, we wish to remind you that proceeding with this siege will further increase hatred in the hearts of the people from all over the Arab countries..."

The sanctions have brought about tremendous sufferings and hardships to the Iraqi people," it said, adding, "unfortunately, however, the embargo has reflected negatively on the economic situation in Jordan..."

"We appreciate any positive stand vis-a-vis the situation in Iraq and the necessity of lifting the siege imposed on it," it said.

"We seek your active support and kind assistance of our appeal... we are confident that you will use your good offices with the U.N. and the Security Council during the periodical review session scheduled to convene this month" on the sanctions (the second part of this paragraph was missing from the coalition's letter to President Clinton).

The Security Council meets Monday for a two-monthly review of the sanctions against Iraq. But any easing of the sanctions is unlikely, given the U.S. and British view that Baghdad has not complied fully with the Gulf war ceasefire terms set by the U.N. after a U.S.-led coalition ended the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in early 1991.

"We solicit your diligent efforts to persuade the U.N. to implement article 22 of Security Council Resolution 687 providing for the termination of this siege," said the one-page appeal to world leaders.

"This will undoubtedly avoid the collateral harmful effects on the population."

The memos were signed by Hamzeh Mansour, a member of the Lower House of Parliament representing the Islamic Action Front, which has assumed a leading role in the coalition.

Dr. Mansour was quoted as saying last week that a parliamentary delegation headed by Ibrahim Zeid Al Keilani now visiting Tehran would try to lobby the Iranian government to end the sanctions against its neighbor.

Similar efforts will be undertaken with all friendly countries, he said.

(The delegation was also expected to try to convince the Iranian government to release Iraqi warplanes sent to Iran during the Gulf war. Baghdad says more than 140 warplanes were sent to Iran for safekeeping but Iran says it received less than 30 and that their return hinges on an end to the sanctions).

(Reports from Iran indicate that the Iranian air force is using some of the planes after repainting them).

IAF sources said coalition leaders had met with Russia, China and French diplomats in Amman to press their governments into lifting the sanctions against Iraq. The alliance was also seeking meetings with the U.S. and British diplomats, but it was not immediately known whether any such encounters took place.

Russia, China and France, all of them permanent members of the Security Council, are seen as sympathetic to the Iraqi cause and have said in public that they favour an easing of the crippling embargo.

On Thursday, the coalition staged a sit-in in front of the U.N. office in Amman. Between 60 to 80 people, representing political parties, unions, professional associations and members of parliament, participated in the event, which ended after the memo was handed over to the office.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Prince Abdullah awards ANU graduates

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein presented certificates to graduates from Amman National University (ANU) at a graduation ceremony held at the University of Jordan stadium. A total of 600 students graduated this year from the various faculties of ANU. The Thursday ceremony was attended by the University President Eid Dahiyat, university staff and students' families. Also Thursday Prince Abdullah visited the badia and border police headquarters, where he was received by Sharif Fawwaz Zaben, commander of the badia and border police, who briefed him on the duties and tasks of the force. Prince Abdullah paid a field visit to one of the badia police units and inspect its equipment. The Prince was accompanied by Public Security Department Director

Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahman Al Adwan.

#### Trade centre to open in Washington

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian trade centre will be opened in Washington soon, according to a decision by the Jordanian Exports Promotion and Trade Centres Corporation Board of Directors. The board named Dia's Eldin Al Rifai as commercial representative of the corporation in Washington. A spokesperson for the corporation said the new centre will handle the promotion of Jordanian industries in the U.S. markets and provide services and facilities to those industries. With this centre, the number of Jordanian trade centres abroad comes to 10. Other centres are in Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya and Russia.

#### American lawmakers want Jordan to return suspect

WASHINGTON (AP) — New Jersey lawmakers asked Jordan on Thursday to cooperate in the return of a fugitive wife-killing suspect whom they fear will harm the son and daughter he took to the Kingdom.

Despite the lack of an extradition treaty between the United States and Jordan, Morris County Prosecutor Michael Murphy and state lawmakers said they were optimistic following a Thursday meeting at the Jordanian embassy.

"The session with the charge d'affaires was very positive," said Representative Robert Torricelli, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "There has been strong cooperation between Jordan and the United States in other matters.

"This is an irritant for neither side wants," said Mr. Torricelli, a democrat (New Jersey).

Specifics were short on the return of suspect Mohammad Ismail Abequa, but officials hoped the cooperative spirit expressed by Charge d'Affaires Ayman Amary would evolve into a solution.

Authorities say they fear for the safety of the children — the year-old Sami and six-year-old Lisa — because they say Mr. Abequa has a history of spousal and child abuse.

Mr. Abequa, 45, is suspected in the July 3, strangulation of his wife Nidal, 40. Her body was found three days later in their Parsippany-Troy Hills apartment.

#### Qouriea seeks to allay Jordan concern

(Continued from page 1)

hailed by Palestinian officials as securing more than they bargained for, is seen as having curtailed Palestinian options in dealing with Jordan.

According to highly-informed sources, Jordan reviewed the issue with Israel when the two sides met in Washington in early June under the umbrella of the Jordanian-American-Israeli commission and in fact managed to relax some of the Israeli-imposed restrictions on the flow of Jordanian goods to the Palestinian market.

During that meeting, Israel also agreed to keep Jordan informed of all developments concerning the possible issuance of a Palestinian currency and the circulation of the Jordanian currency in the occupied territories. Similar undertakings have been offered by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to the sources.

Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saed Nabulsi has said that Jordan did not really have to worry about a massive withdrawal of the dinar from circulation in the occupied territories since it would be an illogical move for the Palestinians themselves because Palestinians whose savings are also be negatively affected.

"It is not a zero-sum game," Dr. Nabulsi said last month.

Overlapping aspects of the Israel-PLO and the Jordan-PLO economic accords are expected to be raised when the commission meets again in a working session on Wednesday near the Dead Sea. The opening session will be attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, in his capacity as foreign minister, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. But there will be no negotiations between Dr. Majali and Mr. Peres.

Commenting on the status of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation, His Majesty King Hussein said on July 6 that "we have already started steps in this direction" on the basis of the agreement, but he emphasised the need for close consultations over differences if any.

"We welcome the Palestinian leaders to Amman at any time, we are open to discuss any subject of mutual concern..." the King told reporters after a summit meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

#### Arafat restakes claim

(Continued from page 1)

lums and Christians from going to it. Rabin promised me to solve this problem," Mr. Arafat told Mr. Sadik's delegation.

Mr. Arafat has repeatedly alluded to hopes of regaining Jerusalem since the peace agreement, notably in a May 10 speech in Johannesburg. He called for a "jihad" or holy war in the city, but, later when Israel protested he said he did not mean violence.

Israel protested this week after Mr. Hussein received Canadian Public Works Minister David Dingwall at his East Jerusalem headquarters called Orient House.

Mr. Hussein denied Orient House was used as a Palestinian foreign ministry.

Palestinian Information and Culture Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo arrived in the Gaza Strip Thursday from Egypt after Israel lifted a ban on him entering the autonomous territory.

Mr. Abed Rabbo arrived in the Strip via the Rafah border crossing point. Israel had prevented Mr. Abed Rabbo entering the Gaza Strip Wednesday while a Palestinian activist, Jihad Amarin, remained there.

After his arrival, Mr. Abed Rabbo headed for the Palestine Hotel where Mr. Arafat was holding a late night meeting with Gaza residents.

"I don't know what to say, these are the first words that I speak after entering the land of Palestine," Mr. Abed Rabbo told a cheering audience of about 200 people.

Mr. Abed Rabbo heads a faction called FIDA, which is a member of the PLO, and supports peace with Israel. He has spent most of his life in Lebanon and Tunis.

## Japan to study Jordan's tourist regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — A

Japanese delegation headed by the director of the International Cooperation Department at the foreign ministry Friday said Japan is ready to provide financial aid to Jordan to develop its tourism sector.

The delegation head said a Japanese expert group will arrive Sunday to work out plans of cooperation between Jordan and Japan and to review them with the Jordanian authorities in preparation for implementation.

The Japanese group met with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Thursday and discussed with him scopes of cooperation in tourism and the possibility of Japanese financing and implementing related projects in Jordan.

Mr. Adwan reviewed with the visiting delegation Jordan's tourist attractions and potential investments.

He said the ministry had divided the Kingdom into various tourist regions, taking into consideration the special circumstances and features of each, and the services and facilities needed there.

Dr. Adwan stressed that any plans to develop such areas should recognise the features of the region, including cultural and archaeological sites and the local environment.

The minister reviewed the important role tourism can play in supporting the national economy and providing hard currency, in addition to creating jobs and consequently helping ease unemployment.

Dr. Adwan said tourism will be the top productive industry, noting its significant contribution to enhancing scopes of cooperation and advancing understanding between Jordan and Japan.

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between the world nations.

He said the tourism sector will benefit greatly from the establishment of peace in the region, adding that, it will result in large tourist groups coming to this area.

Dr. Adwan called on Japan, as the current chair of the Middle-East peace talks multilateral working group on the environment, to contribute to working out frameworks and bases for cooperation in the region.

He also called for speeding up action to implement and finance tourism projects and requested that the delegation launch tourism promotion campaign in Japan to encourage Japanese citizens to visit Jordan.

The Japanese delegation said it will undertake comprehensive studies of the various tourist regions within the next 18 months to identify service and facility needs, taking into account the various region's special circumstances and characteristics.

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## Bastille Day snub to U.K. marks new bitterness — paper

LONDON (Agencies) — Organisers of the annual July 14 military parade in Paris scrapped an invitation to Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) to take part, the Independent said Friday, quoting unidentified official sources.

The RAF had offered to send four Tornado fighters to join the fly-past over the Champs-Elysées, but the French authorities decided against it four months ago, the report by the daily's Paris correspondent said.

The paper said the French viewed the presence of British aircraft as "politically incorrect. It would have sent the wrong message."

Reflecting close ties with Bonn, the French government instead decided to include Eurocrops, the mainly French and German brigades set up last year.

Describing the decision as a "snub," the Independent said it came against a background of "worsening relations" between London and Paris.

As evidence, it cited the Channel Tunnel which was celebrated with more enthusiasm on the French side than on the British, and the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.

Following that occasion, the paper reported, Queen Elizabeth II was said to have complained privately that French President François

Mitterrand was off-hand with her personally and towards Britain generally.

Further grievances on the part of the two countries were said to relate to British Prime Minister John Major's use of his veto to block the candidature of Belgian Premier Jean-Luc Dehaene, favoured by France, for presidency of the European Commission, and Britain's criticism of France's decision to send troops to war-torn Rwanda.

In the event, Thursday's fly-past was drastically curtailed because of the low cloud. Only a few army helicopters and the French Air Force aerobatic team trailing traditional red, white and blue smoke took part.

The German press Friday hailed as a "parade for Europe" the participation of German tanks in France's annual military procession down the Champs Elysées.

The German soldiers, who took part in the parade as part of the Eurocrops, were joining the national procession which was "directed towards the future," said the conservative *Die Welt* in an editorial.

The *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung* said that "Franco-German friendship henceforth has a new quality," adding that "the last taboo of bilateral relations has fallen."

The *Leipziger Volkszeitung* asked whether "put-

ting history back together again is easier when we think less in national terms, and more in European terms?" The answer, according to the paper, "after yesterday, is yes."

French President François Mitterrand's invitation to the Germans to take part in the Bastille Day military parade stirred controversy in France as it was the first time since World War II that German tanks had rolled down the Champs Elysées.

To strains of the European Union hymn, German soldiers rolled down France's Grandest Avenue Thursday. To some it brought eerie memories of Nazi occupation, but to most it was a milestone for European unity.

Invited to France's traditional Bastille Day military parade, the 200 Germans joined troops of France, Belgium, Spain and Luxembourg in an 800-strong procession by the Eurocrops, Europe's fledgling army.

As they rolled their armoured personnel carriers down the Champs-Elysées, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, the European Union's hymn, played over the public address system and applause broke out among many of the tens of thousands of onlookers lining the avenue.

"I think you must go past the memories, even if you lived them like me," said Bernard Heslot, 67.

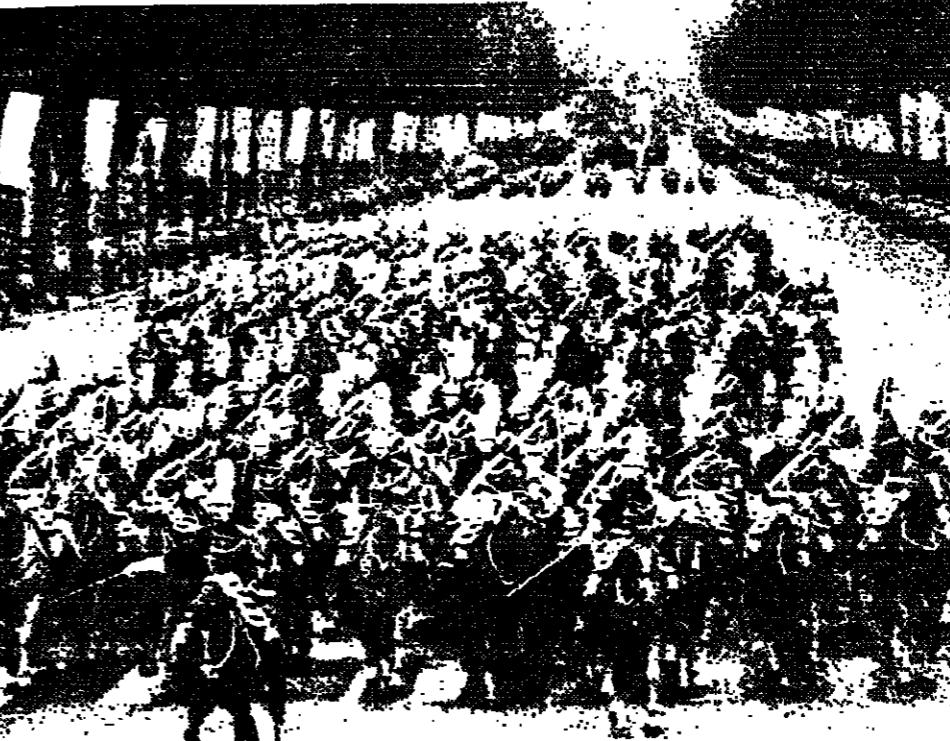
"I feel good for Europe and I think it's normal to see German troops. In fact they're not really German troops. That's why it doesn't matter to me, because they're here with the Eurocrops," said Fred Coustenoble, 23.

But at the sight of black-and-white German military crosses on two dozen armoured vehicles, others couldn't forgive Germany for the daily goose-stepping by Nazi troops down the same avenue for four years during the World War II.

There were some scattered whistles of disapproval, one group of protesters dressed in concentration camp uniforms and an elderly couple wore the yellow Star of David the Nazis forced the Jews to wear.

"My father was deported to a death camp, said the wife, Annette Seilomon, 60. "To see them march then and to see them again today is very difficult."

Still, the horrid memory of a German prison camp, where he lost two friends, "doesn't stop me from being for the Germans in the para-



The Republican Guard cavalry parade down the Champs Elysées during the traditional Bastille Day military parade (AFP photo)

de," said Maurice Picault, a frail man of 91. "It's better to be friends than enemies."

The 7,000-member Eurocrops, to grow to 40,000 next year, was created by France and Germany. The two former enemies are now the two major forces behind efforts to turn the EU's 12-nation trading bloc into a political and economic power with a common currency and army.

It was reported that President François Mitterrand's final grand gesture for Europe before he ends 14 years of power next spring. The move made up for shutting out the Germans from the 50th anniversary ceremonies of D-Day, June 6.

But former President Valéry Giscard D'Estaing's said it was too soon. The Communists, who were a major force in the resistance, protested on the avenue Monday, and monarchists called the Eurocrops a "Trojan horse."

Adm. Philippe de Gaulle, son of French war hero and former President Charles de Gaulle, said German participation was "neither the right date nor the right

place."

But opinion polls indicated about two-thirds of the French public supported Mr. Mitterrand's decision.

Both Mr. Mitterrand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a guest at the parade, expressed satisfaction after the parade.

"I was happy that in a choice between the past and the future, we choose the future," said Mr. Mitterrand, 77.

Mr. Mitterrand, who was wounded and taken prisoner during the war, recalled his "profound sadness" when Germans marched in Paris then. On Thursday, he said, he felt "joy at the thought that a half-century has been enough to resolve the problems of two world wars."

Mr. Kohl said no one could expect "the marks of history to disappear immediately," but added: "The Eurocrops shows that Europe is in the process of being born."

The Eurocrops could parade in Berlin on Oct. 3, the day of German unification, German Defence Minister Volker Rühe said in an interview with the weekly *Die*

Welt published Thursday.

The German army normally doesn't hold parades, but a Eurocrops procession would demonstrate European unity," Mr. Rühe said.

The Bastille Day parade featured 350 vehicles, 200 horses and 6,000 people including white-hatted foreign legionnaires and silver-helmeted firefighters. A formation of jets left trails of red, white and blue smoke over the Broad Avenue.

France's 2nd Armoured Division, which liberated Paris on Aug. 23, 1944, had a place of honour in the parade.

In addition to Mr. Kohl, dignitaries watching the parade included Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain; Jacques Santer of Luxembourg and Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium; Ivory Coast President Henri Konan Bedie; President-elect Ernesto Samper of Colombia, and Jacques Delors, chief executive of the European Union.

Bastille Day marks the prison storming in 1789 that set off the French revolution and led to the birth of the republic.

**Sammy the alligator's escapade ends**

DORMAGEN, Germany (AP) — Sammy the alligator's daring bid for freedom ended Friday with his capture in a lake in this western German town where he took a dip to cool off last weekend and decided he rather enjoyed the setting. The eight-year-old creature that had managed to evade police capture for five days was finally caught Friday morning by a frogman who found it bathing on the lakeside, police said.

His next address will be a zoo, they added. Sammy's saga, which has gripped the popular imagination, began Sunday when his owner Joerg Zars, 21, took him for a cooling swim. Sammy slipped his leash and swam off spreading panic among the 8,000 bathers. Since then, with Germany out of the World Cup, his days "on the run" from frogmen, police marksmen and would-be hunters of all sorts have come almost to rival the soccer tournament for public interest. The shock announcement Tuesday of his death in a hall of police bullets proved premature.

On Wednesday he was discovered to be still alive and swimming in the summer resort lake of Nienvenheim near Dormagen. By Thursday he was a hero with his own fan club, set up by the Saarland Radio Station whose switchboard was jammed by listeners calling in with messages of sympathy for Sammy. Finally, after an hour-long crisis meeting Thursday, Dormagen town officials and Neuss district police announced everything would be done to catch the 1.20 metre-long (four-foot-long) caiman alive. Olaf Moll, a local town official, said Sammy had proved more popular than former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev when he visited the town two years ago.

**'Condom king' wins Magsaysay Award**

MANILA (AP) — Mechai Virayda, known as the "condom king" of Thailand for his efforts to promote population and AIDS control, has won the 1994 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service. The Ramon Magsaysay Foundation said Mr. Mechai, who chairman of Thailand's Population and Community Development Association, had promoted "creative public campaigns to promote family planning, rural development and a rigorous, honest and compassionate response to the plague of AIDS."

Armenians make little distinction between Turks and Azeris. They also accuse Turkey of advising and equipping Azeri forces in Karabakh.

Armenian forces pushed the Azeris out of almost all the enclave last year and also occupied huge swathes of adjoining Azeri territory. There was a flurry of fighting in the spring, but the battle fronts have been largely quiet over the summer.

## Rome government wavers amid storm over corruption law

Roman emperor who persecuted Christians.

Interior Minister Roberto Maroni called the exclusion of bribery and corruption from the list of arrestable offences a mistake that could be corrected immediately by amending the decree in parliament to include them.

Mr. Berlusconi Friday defended the decree.

He said the intention of the decree was to "stop the Italy becoming a police state" before storming out of a news conference without taking questions.

Mr. Berlusconi said magistrates had all the powers they needed "to pursue their investigations and trials, to carry out justice and not vendettas."

"Putting citizens in jail has become almost run of the mill," the media tycoon-turned-politician said.

Government spokesman Giuliano Ferrara, who has cabinet rank, said the decree would not be pulled but also signalled that amendments submitted in parliament would be taken into account.

"The decree law is not a hatchet job," Mr. Ferrara said.

Umberto Bossi, whose Northern League is a key partner in Mr. Berlusconi's

coalition, said his movement would give the decree a rough ride in parliament.

"Corruption and bribery can't be seen as mere misdemeanours," said Mr. Bossi, brought to book himself by Di Pietro this month along with former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and a host of old guard leaders at a major corruption trial in Milan.

Parliamentarians in the neo-fascist-led National Alliance, the third pillar of Mr. Berlusconi's two-month-old coalition government, also threatened a revolt.

"Millions of Italians did not vote for us so we would absolve thieves and let them out of jail," said hardline Pino Rauti. He called the decree a "mindboggling whitewash."

Mr. Di Pietro and his colleagues have become virtual saints in Italy after two years of "tangentopoli" (bribesville) scandals that sank an entire class of corrupt politicians.

The magistrates have ordered the arrest at various times of thousands of businessmen and politicians, arguing that if left free they could tamper with evidence.

Critics say investigators have abused their powers to force confessions out of suspects.

## Armenia rejects Turkish peacekeepers for Karabakh

YEREVAN (R) — Armenia has rejected the idea of Turkish troops taking part in peacekeeping operations in the Azeri-Armenian conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, a senior official said Friday.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller last month proposed sending a contingent to a multinational force and Russia, the dominant military power in the Caucasus, gave conditional approval.

"Turkey cannot be involved in the peacekeeping process, even as observers, since Turkey is one of the sides in the conflict," Amanya Ovanisyan, head of the Armenian president's press service, said. "And they continue to blockade Armenia."

Several thousand people have been killed in 6½ years of fighting over Karabakh, a mainly Armenian-inhabited territory allotted to Azerbaijan by the Kremlin in 1923.

Armenia is not formally involved but provides logistic and diplomatic support to the separatist Karabakh Armenians.

Turkey, which has strong ethnic and linguistic links with Azerbaijan, is a member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe's 11-nation Minsk group seeking to end the Karabakh conflict.

As aide to Ms. Ciller said in late June the Turkish leader was asking parliament, which is in recess, to approve

the use of Turkish troops within a CSCE multilateral peacekeeping force.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, in an interview with ITAR-TASS News Agency last Friday, indicated Moscow would accept Turkish involvement but would want to invite contingents from other countries too.

"Turkey cannot introduce its troops into Azerbaijan unilaterally," he said. "Russia also has interests in the Transcaucasus, no smaller and perhaps greater than Turkey's."

But the Armenian government rejected the idea out of hand. Ms. Ovanisyan said it was impossible, among other

reasons, because Yerevan and Ankara had no diplomatic relations.

Armenia accuses Turkey of massacring up to 1.5 million people in 1915 and annexing much of its territory — charges rejected by Turkey.

Armenians make little distinction between Turks and Azeris. They also accuse Turkey of advising and equipping Azeri forces in Karabakh.

Armenian forces pushed the Azeris out of almost all the enclave last year and also occupied huge swathes of adjoining Azeri territory. There was a flurry of fighting in the spring, but the battle fronts have been largely quiet over the summer.

## Burma offers to trade drug warlord for U.S. arms

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Burmese military junta has offered to defeat a drug lord responsible for most of the world heroin trade if the United States lifts its arms embargo on Burma, The New York Times said Friday.

Military officials in Yangon told the daily the offer was made to the U.S. State Department in recent weeks.

Although U.S. officials think it unlikely the offer might change U.S. pressure to have Burma improve its human rights record, they said it would be important if it signaled a new willingness by the army to destroy Khun Sa's operation.

Khun Sa was indicted on

narcotics charges in the United States in 1989 and recently declared himself president of a newly independent state on Burma's eastern border, where a large part of the world's opium, the raw material for heroin, is grown.

Despite the U.S. arms embargo, Burma since 1990 has received an estimated \$1 billion worth of weapons such as tanks, jet fighters and warships from China, which the military sources said were useless in mountain warfare.

"What we need from America are helicopters and smaller arms, which we can use in the mountains," a Burmese military officer told the daily.

This latest offer follows a

statement earlier this week by a spokesman of the military junta who said the military leader would be willing to meet with dissident leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for nearly six years.

The statement, made by Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, head of military intelligence, also in an interview with the New York Times, was welcomed by a U.S. State Department spokesman Tuesday.

"It has long been the view of the U.S. government that the (Burmese junta) should enter promptly into a genuine dialogue, if development," said the spokesman.

## U.S. Senate bans arms sales to Indonesia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate banned the sale of light arms to Indonesia until "significant progress" is made on human rights in East Timor and elsewhere in Indonesia.

The measure, approved in a voice vote late Thursday, will go to a House-Senate conference committee to resolve differences with a similar version of the bill passed by the House of Representatives in May.

The protesters carried banners with messages such as "Clinton beware, we will peel your skin" and "hang Taslima Nasreen."

Journalists reporting on Nasreen have also been attacked by Islamic groups and foreign non-governmental organisations have been threatened or had their offices set on fire.

the secretary of state reports that there has been significant progress made on human rights in East Timor and elsewhere in Indonesia."

The United States suspended military aid to Jakarta in 1992, which included bringing Indonesian soldiers here for training.

The conditions set out by the Senate include compliance with U.N. recommendations last year calling for a significant reduction in Indonesia's troop presence in the former Portuguese enclave annexed by Jakarta in 1976.

The recommendations also call on Jakarta to participate

"constructively" with U.N. Secretary of General Boutros Ghali on resolving the status of East Timor, which includes the issue of self-determination.

East Timor police have released all but one of the detained Thursday when security forces broke up the student-led march.

The provincial capital Dili was reported to be calm Friday in the aftermath of the incident.

The lone demonstrator being detained is not a student but an unemployed man alleged to have carried a weapon at the demonstration, said Lieutenant Colonel Andreas Sugiantoro, police chief in Dili, in a telephone interview.

## French troops to detain Rwanda officials found in safe zone

PARIS (R) — France, alarmed at the prospect of sheltering ministers accused of complicity in genocide, said Friday it would detain members of the Rwandan rump government if they were found in a safe zone for civilians in the southwest.

As waves of refugees fleeing the civil war poured into the French-declared protection zone and Zaire, a senior French official said the leaders of the rump government might take advantage of the chaos to slip into the safe area.

France still has no confirmation that the president, prime minister and other officials had fled to Cyangugu — a town in the zone where French troops are deployed — as stated by their colleagues who chose to cross into Zaire.

"If they come to us and we hear of it, we would intern them. It is out of the question that we would accept them continuing their activities in our area," the French official said.

"We would put them not in prison but under the guard of French soldiers to prevent them eventually continuing their activities and to hand them over to the United Nations if this is requested," he said.

Some members of the Hutu government are likely to be wanted by a U.N. war crimes tribunal on charges of organising the systematic genocide of the Tutsi minority.

the weekend.

The refugees are mostly Hutus, fleeing the rapid advance of the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) whose well-equipped and disciplined army has routed the government in three months.

The U.N. Security Council faced with dire warnings from France of another humanitarian catastrophe, Thursday demanded an immediate ceasefire in Rwanda and called on the international community to supply relief for refugees fleeing rebel troops.

Rwandan rebels are consolidating their positions around the lakeside resort of Gisenyi ahead of a final assault against what remains of the government army, retreating soldiers said Friday.

The soldiers said the RPF had not made any push overnight and were still 25 kilometres outside the border town, which until Thursday served as a base for Rwanda's rump government.

A tidal wave of Rwandan refugees which aid agencies predict could reach one million poured into Zaire along with the collapsed government's retreating army Friday.

Columns of people, their cloth bundles and cooking pots piled high on their heads, trudged into the eastern Zairean town of Goma. Truckloads of soldiers, some wounded, joined the exodus — possibly the biggest ever seen in Africa.

Aid agencies varied in their figures, some estimating that 200,000 people crossed Thursday, others saying far more. But they all expect a total of 800,000 to one million people to pour over by

French intelligence officers

told reporters in Goma that the only government resistance was at a former commando training school at Mutura, 25 kilometres outside Gisenyi.

"Once the rebels take Mutura then the show is over," one officer said.

Fleeing residents told reporters that Gisenyi was chaotic overnight with drunk militia and soldiers looting whatever remained of the once post town, home to late President Juvenal Habyarimana.

"It's little wonder they (government) have lost the war. These people (soldiers) are like animals. Instead of facing the enemy, they spent the whole night looting and harassing civilians," a nun with the Catholic Church said.

The nun warned journalists against venturing further into Gisenyi. "They are all drunk and very dangerous at the moment. Remember, remember, remember."

She said the town was almost empty and the lake-side Hotel Meridian was an eerie ghost of its former self.

Nervous troops followed refugees across the border into Zaire believing the RPF will go for Gisenyi once the civilians had left. "It's a tactic we've seen them (rebels) use over the last three months," a Rwandan immigration officer said.

A diplomatic source said Paris was deeply concerned by the slowness of the international community in re-



Over 15,000 Rwandan refugees cross every hour the Zairean border at Goma to flee the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) advance on the northwestern town of Gisenyi, Rwanda's

spending to French warnings of another humanitarian catastrophe.

"Contrary to what the U.N. has asked for from the outset, there is still no ceasefire. And as long as the fighting goes on, people will flee. The problem will remain even if the fighting stops."

"There are thousands of people outside Rwanda, and the situation is such that something must be done not within days but within hours. I don't see the international community mobilising fast enough," the source said.

France has repeatedly called on its European Union partners and Security Council members to rush humanitarian supplies, so far derisory, to the area and try to engineer a ceasefire.

"They reacted very positively and agreed a ceasefire

interim government fled from Gisenyi to the southwestern town of Cyangugu, where the French intervention force in Rwanda is based (AFP photo)

was imperative," he said. "They told me they were willing to have a ceasefire as soon as possible. It is not for me to make the announcement. General Kagame will make the declaration."

"That could be any time now — probably his afternoon (Friday), probably tomorrow. We do not have to wait until a government is formed to declare a ceasefire."

Meanwhile Rwanda's prime minister designate said Friday he expected rebels to announce a unilateral ceasefire imminently to encourage a tidal wave of refugees to return.

Faustin Twagiramungu, designated prime minister by the RPF, said Rwanda and its people needed to encourage the return of more than a million refugees and an estimated two million people internally displaced by three months of war and massacres.

Mr. Twagiramungu, who

returned from exile Thursday, spoke at his Kigali hotel which he shares with hundreds of displaced people and 50 U.N. peacekeepers. He said he had been named prime minister of a deserted country.

"If you took me to the middle of the Sahara and said, there, be prime minister, I would refuse. I do not want to be prime minister over sand — but over people."

"For that to happen, we have to persuade the population to return. We have to reassure the people they are safe," he said.

"It is useless to conquer a territory unless you conquer the hearts of the population. The RPF understand that and are ready to reassure the population."

## Serbs force Demirel to cancel Sarajevo trip

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel was forced to call off a visit to Sarajevo Thursday because Serb forces ringing the Bosnian capital refused to guarantee his safety, United Nations sources said.

Mr. Demirel instead went to central Bosnia to visit Turkish troops on peacekeeping duty.

Their presence has angered the Bosnian Serbs, who spent 500 years under Ottoman rule and bitterly resent Turkey's support for the Muslim-led Bosnian government in Sarajevo.

Mr. Demirel instead went to central Bosnia to visit Turkish troops on peacekeeping duty.

"I received a letter yesterday from the United Nations saying my visit to Sarajevo should be postponed for security reasons because they could not fly me from Zagreb to Sarajevo," Mr. Demirel said. He planned to visit the city next month.

The United Nations reported heavy shelling round the town of Konjic, southwest of the capital, and in the north-central Bosnian region around Doboj.

The fighting has continued despite the fact that the Serbs

and Muslims agreed this week to extend a month-long ceasefire that was supposed to pave the way for a permanent settlement of the 27-month war.

The Posavina Corridor, used by the Serbs to supply western Bosnia and Serb-held lands in Croatia, suffered 200 shell impacts overnight, while the battle for the Muslim-held Bihać enclave in northwestern Bosnia continued unabated.

Mr. Demirel met Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic when he arrived in the coastal town of Split and was scheduled to meet President Franjo Tudjman later Friday.

During his three-day visit to Bosnia and Croatia, Mr. Demirel is expected to sign a document on friendship and cooperation with Croatia.

The Turkish president will Sunday hold talks with Mr. Tudjman and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on the Brioni Islands, an Adriatic holiday resort used as a residence by the late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito.

Though Mr. Karadzic, "president" of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic, has openly dismissed the internationally backed plan as "incomplete," he has not advised the Serb parliament to either reject it or accept it.

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"If they want to invade let them do it and face the consequences," said a military official.

Those words may sound like posturing from a country with only some 7,000 troops, but the military has in fact been giving as good as it gets so far.

An outraged international community has been slapping more and more sanctions against the Caribbean nation only to have the military respond tit-for-tat.

The latest act of defiance came Wednesday when international human rights monitors were forced to leave the country on orders from the military.

Despite Ms. Albright's announcement of Latin American cooperation in peacekeeping place, international opposition to a unilateral U.S. invasion is holding steady.

In Port-au-Prince, about a thousand supporters of the military, including several members of parliament and political leaders, staged a demonstration against foreign military intervention.

Army chief General Raoul Cedras, who led the coup against Mr. Aristide, has made no move to honour the accord he signed on Governor's Island last year which calls for Mr. Aristide's return.

"We are at an impasse," a Western diplomat in Haiti

With the help of U.S. mil-

## Russian parliament condemns U.S. resolution on Estonia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's parliament Friday condemned a U.S. Senate resolution demanding that Moscow withdraw its troops from Estonia by the end of August.

Meantime, the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament Friday set the time for its critical debate next week on a Bosnian peace plan, which Bosnian Serb strongman Radovan Karadzic has blocked at despite Western pressure.

The debate, which had already been announced for Monday, will be held at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT).

It will take place in the Serb stronghold of Pale, southeast of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

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## Lagos residents shocked, remain calm after Abiola refused bail

LAGOS (AFP) — Lagos residents remained calm Friday, trying to take in Thursday's shock refusal of an Abuja Federal High Court to grant bail to Chief Moshood Abiola, the main opposition figure, who has been charged with treason.

There was no unusual deployment of troops on the roads of the capital, most of which were completely deserted of vehicles because of a petrol scarcity brought about by an oil workers' strike.

The State Duma, parliament's lower house, said in a statement that the resolution, which linked more of U.S. aid to the withdrawal of troops, was an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Russia and Estonia.

"The fact that the U.S. Senate passed a resolution saying Russia will not get additional economic aid if it does not withdraw its troops from Estonia before Aug. 31 is seen as a move directed at the disruption of efforts to establish good neighbourly relations between Russia and Estonia," it said.

Russia has pulled its forces out of Lithuania and has agreed to quit Latvia by the end of August.

But it has no deal with Estonia and has linked the removal of its 2,500 troops to the treatment of Russian-speaking and the rights of Russian military pensioners in the Baltic republic.

The overnight shooting has intensified fears of a state of tit-for-tat killings by Protestant militants seeking to keep Northern Ireland British and their Irish Republican Army (IRA) fighting a guerrilla campaign for a united Ireland.

The Protestant Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) group said it was responsible for the attack of a 33-year-old Catholic man at a golf course last Saturday.

That attack followed the funeral's Thursday of two prominent Protestant militants killed in guerrilla attacks, and the attempted murder of two mainstream Protestant politicians as London and Dublin await a response from the IRA's political wing to proposals for peace.

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The overnight shooting has intensified fears of a state of tit-for-tat killings by Protestant militants seeking to keep Northern Ireland British and their Irish Republican Army (IRA) fighting a guerrilla campaign for a united Ireland.

Or it could turn out to be the biggest fizzle after months of excitement.

Astronomers from around the world have gathered at the Sutherland Observatory in the dry winter air of the semi-desert Karoo Region, 275 kilometres northeast of Cape Town, to witness the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 plunge into Jupiter Saturday.

The first of a string of comet fragments is due to hit the far side of the huge planet at 1954 GMT (universal time, or UT, to astronomers) Saturday, the last is due on July 22.

The U.S. Senate's vote Wednesday was an amendment to a foreign aid bill which provides \$839 million in aid for Russia and the other former Soviet republics.

in Brussels later Friday. Meanwhile, police Thursday issued an artist's impression of a man they want to question, following the seizure Tuesday of almost two tonnes of explosives hidden in a lorry ferried to England from Northern Ireland.

After he was told the lorry had not been passed for collection, the man did not return, but his blue boiler suit was found nearby.

It is believed he must have noticed the security check and realised the explosives would be found.

Police said Tuesday they could have caused a blast as big as, if not bigger than, the Bishopsgate attack in the City of London last year, which killed a photographer and wounded 44 people.

## Astronomers prepare for biggest crash

CAPE TOWN (R) — Astronomers in South Africa will have a ringside seat for the biggest solar system collision of the century when the first segments of comet smash into Jupiter Saturday.

The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for International Humanitarian and Cultural Cooperation, Vyacheslav Bakhrushin, was quoted by RIA as saying the Senate resolution was "either stupid or provocative."

"The question of the date is not a question of the withdrawal of the troops in principle," he said.

But he said: "Fixing a precise timetable is a matter for the two states," adding that it was hardly advisable for Russia to pull out by Aug. 31.

The U.S. Senate's vote Wednesday was an amendment to a foreign aid bill which provides \$839 million in aid for Russia and the other former Soviet republics.

on three of Jupiter's 16 moons. We'll also take electronic pictures in visible light and infra-red to look for plumes of gases from the impact and for new storms or other disturbances in the clouds.

"But even if we see nothing, that will actually tell us something. We will know much more about comets than we did before," Mr. Laney said.

Astronomers from New York, Hawaii, Japan and South Africa will operate the telescopes.

"Of all the world's observatories, only Sutherland is well placed to view the first impact on July 16," Mr. Laney said.

"South African telescopes have the same privileged position for four of the remaining 20 impacts, including the largest fragment on July 20," said Hilda Van Rooyen of the State Science Council's Foundation for Research Development (FRD).

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## Giant step in peace march

THE MEETING between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on July 25 would not come out of a vacuum. Nor would it mean, as some opposition figures might contend, a surrender to Israeli designs or an abandonment of the other Arab parties and Arab rights. Jordan and the Jordanian leadership have always stood for peace that would restore full Arab rights. Jordan had participated in formulating and readily accepted U.N. Security Council resolution 242 when it was passed in 1967. The Kingdom also accepted in 1973 resolution 238, which called for the immediate implementation of 242 based on negotiations. Both resolutions anyway call for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the exchange of occupied Arab lands for peace.

As His Majesty King Hussein asserted in a speech to army officers broadcast yesterday, Jordan will not sign a peace treaty with Israel until the Kingdom restores its full rights in territory and water and until all the items on the agenda for talks with Israel, signed in Washington on Sept. 14, are addressed and resolved. At a time when the Israelis declare their intention to return the Golan Heights to Syria and to withdraw from South Lebanon and while the Palestinians are fully engaging the Israelis in the autonomy talks, Jordan cannot sit and wait for its destiny to be decided by whatever progress (or lack of it) is made on the other tracks.

The King has always described the peace that Jordan would like to see as one that is just, comprehensive and lasting. During his meeting with the King on June 22, and when he announced the July 25 meeting yesterday, President Bill Clinton pledged his administration's support for a "comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East." That kind of peace, for which Jordan has campaigned since 1967 and even before, cannot certainly be achieved without the full engagement of Jordan, as well as the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Lebanese and the Egyptians.

In his announcement yesterday, President Clinton praised the King and the Israeli prime minister for the "courageous leadership and the bold vision which both... have displayed as they work together to create a new future for their people and for all the region." That also is what the King had told both Parliament and government in his address on July 9, when he said that he would do anything for the well-being of Jordan and Jordanians.

If the process could bring peace and prosperity to Jordan and Jordanians, without compromising Arab rights, then we should not hesitate to support it. Peace is not only a dream or a vision. It requires vision, strong will and hard work. And that is what Jordanian negotiators, whether at the Dead Sea hotel, in Wadi Araba or in Washington will require and do. When His Majesty the King meets the Israeli prime minister in Washington July 25 he will be doing his utmost to push the peace effort forward. There will be no peace treaty to sign. But it is going to be a major step towards real and just peace, let it enjoy our full blessing and support.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

CERTAIN ARAB forces seem to be determined to rekindle the war in Yemen which has militarily ended, with the Sanaa forces crushing the southern rebellion, charged Tareq Masrweh in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. The writer said that there were hints about possibilities for renewed clashes and disturbances in a statement given to the French newspaper Le Figaro by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who was quoted as saying the crisis in Yemen did not end with the Sanaa victory but only started. Also Saudi Arabia, which was behind encouraging the southerners to rebel, were very active during the conflict trying to convince the U.S. administration to impose a blockade on Yemen forces. Sanaa forces to retreat, said the writer. Saudi Arabia had hoped to see a scenario in Yemen similar to that which occurred in Iraq after foreign powers imposed their will on the Iraqi forces following the devastation of the 1991 Gulf War. The writer said that the Arab states because it was prompt on taking moves for reconciliation with the Socialist Party in the south, a move that would see an end to internal struggle and lead to a stronger unity between the north and south.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

## In pursuit of Jordan's legitimate rights

THIS WEEK MARKS a major turn in Jordan's quest for an end to the key problem plaguing its every movement and free itself from the shackles of a conflict that hampered its progress and development over the last four decades. For the first time, Jordanian and Israeli delegates will meet in the region to discuss the core issues of conflict between the two countries and the Israeli foreign minister will set foot in the Kingdom, crossing the King Hussein Bridge for a few hours to attend a joint meeting with his Jordanian and American counterparts.

We don't know yet the shape of a peace settlement; there are many issues and side issues that would crop up when Jordan and Israel sit down in the Wadi Araba desert frontier to negotiate border demarcation and water rights. But one thing is clear: Monday's meeting of peace negotiators and Wednesday's trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers are two events which will cement the reality of the irreversibility of the peace process.

Quite understandably, the events that will take place this week have ruffled feathers among some Jordanians and political groupings which assert that the negotiations would lead to the surrender of Arab rights. That is their perception, and in the age of democracy that we are living through in Jordan it is indeed their right to express their opinions in public. But what is disturbing is the reaction that their words may draw from their supporters who may not actually realise that some of the loud declarations and denunciations of the peace process serve a political purpose for those who make them. If anything, some groups oppose the peace process for the sake of opposing something and adopt that as a raison d'être.

But the danger lies in the possibility that some of the supporters of such groups may take those statements on their face value and turn towards unilateral actions that do not serve national interests. That is where the responsibility of those who make those statements rests, and the major

question here is how far are they aware that their comments could lead to repercussions beyond their control. Political freedoms are indeed very important, but they do not come without responsibility. One can only hope that those in positions where they could influence people appreciate this responsibility and act accordingly.

The significance of the site for the negotiations should not be lost on anyone. First and foremost, the talks are held in undisputed territory to discuss usurped territory and water rights. What better setting could such talks have than the constant reminder that the vast expanse of the desert provides of the importance of the rights of everyone?

No doubt, every Jordanian eye will be focused on the events unfolding in the southern desert this week. By virtue of the fact that economic cooperation hinges on the outcome of the negotiations on borders and water rights, there cannot be any escape from the impact of those talks on our daily life even for those who appear indifferent to the entire process. The quicker we make progress, the better for all of us in terms of getting rid of inhibitions and shackles on development and progress.

Of course that does not mean that Jordanians are anxious to embrace the Israelis and do business with them tomorrow. If anything, our eyes are not on the western side of the river at all.

On the contrary, we are looking both east and west of the globe for people who have the potential and capital to develop our region but who have been holding themselves back because of the tension and conflict that we have been and still are living through.

The first order of business is to set in motion the process of resolving the core issues of conflict between Jordan and Israel. And that is what is hopefully going to happen in the desert this week.

Jordan has its priorities and national interests just as its Arab partners in the peace process have. The Kingdom has

always given priority to the larger common Arab interests in the spirit of fraternity, but what it got in return has been disappointing. There is no sense in Jordan holding itself back, awaiting others to move forward, and losing in the bargain in the end.

After holding themselves back for long with high hopes that Arab coordination and united action would materialise to a minimum level that would boost the Arab hand in the negotiations, our leaders have stepped forward with courage to enter serious talks with Israel.

The situation will be very clear if one recalls the words of His Majesty King Hussein: "Is there a rule that Jordan should remain behind everyone else?" or wait eternally for that matter until all others settle their problems along their lines of priority and interests?

We will not be negotiating on anyone's behalf nor compromising anyone's negotiations with Israel. It is purely Jordanian national interests and rights that are going to be discussed with Israel, hopefully paving the way for launching substantive moves on economic cooperation after we are satisfied that our territorial and water rights are respected and protected.

Jordan can only be Jordanian; it cannot be Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese or anything else. The leadership of the country has an obligation to their people in terms of ending tension and conflict and setting the ground for a better standard of living. And this is what our leadership is doing. Jordan is not going to this week's negotiations under the threat of a shotgun; nor are there any preconditions attached. It is a pragmatic and logical choice of the Kingdom, which is seeking honourable peace based on national rights and international legitimacy. If Jordan's exercising of its options does not suit the interests of others, the least we can say is tough luck.

## LETTERS

### Toward a better life

To the Editor:

Failure to establish population stabilisation as the highest priority of development would be committing the ultimate global blunder, one from which there is no recovery. In this coming generation, three billion young people, equal to the entire population of the world as recently as 1960, will enter their reproductive years.

It is often difficult to comprehend the magnitude of the global population problem. That is because we live in a demographically divided world. Ninety five per cent of the 100 newcomers were born in the developing countries.

In the coming six years, forests will be cut equal to 15 times the size of Jordan. The national academies of science of some countries believe that as a result of deforestation, we are losing 10,000 species annually, many before we are able to analyse.

Five per cent of all remaining tropical-rain forest located in Brazil, Zaire and Indonesia, the most populous countries who have not adopted an effective conservation policy. Governments sell their precious natural resources for foreign exchange, sometimes borrow beyond normal collateral demands.

When we destroy the forests and lose the topsoil, desertification is inevitable. Within six years from now, new deserts will occupy this earth at one and half times the size of the continental United States. This expansion will occur in Africa, the world's fastest growing continent. The population of Africa today is 700 million people, it is expected to double in 24 years.

In the developing countries people move to the cities seeking better life. What happens: They create chaos, traffic snarls, housing shortages, health problems, unemployment and urban violence. Those frustrated people struggle to survive at any cost. Half of the world's population will be living in cities by the year 2000.

It is estimated that there are 500 million women in the world who either want no more pregnancies, or did not want their last pregnancy. But they lack the information, education, and the means to do something about it. Empowering these women to decide when to get pregnant and how often, as well as providing them with the means to control their fertility, will ensure that the world population stabilises at eight billion rather than 11 billion or more.

Omaya R. Abdel-Hadi,  
3701 Georgemason Dr.,  
Falls Church, Va. 22041,  
U.S.

### No smoking please!

To the Editor:

At a time when U.S. tobacco companies are under attack in their own country, and their management is facing possible perjury charges in the U.S. Congress, it must be gratifying that a tender to supply tobacco to Jordan is imminent (Jordan Times article "Government to purchase U.S. staples," Tuesday, July 12).

The prominence of this tender is evident due to its approval at a regular cabinet session and by the fact that a delegation led by the minister of supply himself will be travelling to the United States to negotiate this, along with the purchase of wheat, rice and milk.

It seems ironic that while industrialised countries are becoming more and more aware of the harmful effects of tobacco, Jordan spends time at cabinet meetings ensuring the supply of a drug which has proven itself to be one of the major causes of cancer and heart disease in the world. Cigarette smoking is a major problem in Jordan and an awareness campaign to highlight its dangers was run on Jordan Television this year. What is the mixed message been sent here? One shouldn't smoke, yet the government will ensure that cigarettes are available to all the citizens.

All of this while basic medications, such as neomercapto, for thyroid treatment are unavailable in Jordan and have to be purchased outside the country. Perhaps it is time to do some deep searching and get our priorities straight. Do we need tenders for tobacco or for basic food stuff and medical supplies? Or will this tender ensure the completion and full capacity of the new cancer hospital currently under construction in Amman? Let's see, I wonder if the full cabinet will have to meet about this one?

Karen Asfour,  
Ammara.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Tauran's statements which the writer described as paving the ground for internationalising the holy city. He said that Archbishop

Tauran had presented the idea under the pretext that

the status of the holy places

could be endangered and,

therefore, they require international control.

George Haddad, another

columnist for Al Dustour,

said that the Arabs do not

resent peace provided it is

based on justice. Peace

does not depend on man-

ifesting good intentions by

mere words and promises

but rather by practical steps

that would lead to a real

and equitable partnership,

said the writer. There must

not be a forced peace be-

cause that would resemble

forced marriage which is

another form of rape,

added the writer. The writer

said that continued

usurpation of Arab land

and wealth can never be

conducive to peace.

Saleh Qallab levelled

criticism at the Palestine

National Authority whose

police force was reported

to have tortured a detainee to

death. The columnist, who

writes for Al Dustour, said

such a practice represents a

time bomb that could blow

up in the face of Palestine

leader Yasser Arafat at any

time. Urging Mr. Arafat to

open immediate investiga-

tion into the reported inci-

dent, the writer said that

should the culprits escape

punishment the whole

Palestinian image would be

distorted and the Palestine

workers can easily be em-  
ployed at gas stations, sell-  
ing newspapers, driving  
cars and serving in cafes,  
restaurants and hotels, said  
the writer. Instead, we find  
that Indian, Egyptian,  
Pakistani and other guest  
workers are being em-  
ployed in these occupa-  
tions, depriving the Jordan-  
ian job-seekers of decent  
living, added the writer.

Unemployment, warned  
the writer, can breed hatred  
and malice and can pave the  
way for security imbalances  
which would eventually be-  
come detrimental to the  
country's stability and fu-  
ture.

A writer in Al Dustour  
drew attention to the need  
for greater measure of  
attention to be turned to-  
wards the remote regions of

Jordan. The government has  
been showing its real  
interest in developing the  
badia and the other remote  
regions, and perhaps the

decentralised policy the  
government has started to  
implement would help

achieve the aspired goals,

said the writer. But he said

the remote regions abound

with unemployed citizens

awaiting investment pro-  
jects by the private sector

</div

# Features

## Saleh wins military victory, but has he won war?

By Youssef Azmeh

Reuter

DUBAI — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has won a military victory against southerners who tried to revive their independent state, but some diplomats and officials in the region question if he has really won the war.

Troops loyal to Mr. Saleh, whose superior strength and equipment gave them the upper hand from day one of the two-month war, have over the past week swept into the southern bastion of Aden and taken all major highways and military and population centres.

Southern leaders led by Mr. Saleh's former Vice-President Ali Beidh, who set up a breakaway southern state on May 21, were forced to flee into exile.

Sanaa has declared that Mr. Beidh and his supporters who tried to secede from a four-year merger with the numerically superior North have been soundly defeated and that unity for the 13 million people of Yemen is now assured.

But some diplomats and officials say Mr. Saleh's victory may be short-lived. "Despite 19th century precedents, military action was probably not the best way to unite a people in the 1990s," one Western diplomat said.

"It is difficult to see how Saleh could keep the country united if southerners switched to a guerrilla war that could be sustained from bases across Yemen's border," he added.

Mr. Saleh's southern opponents inside and outside the country may be licking their wounds for the moment and the people of Aden may be delighted that its siege has been lifted, the diplomats said. But they

said southern grievances were likely to lead to fresh resistance sooner or later.

The diplomats and officials said Mr. Saleh has yet to win over a southern population that has suffered what many considered an invasion and occupation by his superior forces.

Southern leaders in exile say that although they have lost the conventional war, their fighters will continue a guerrilla campaign against Mr. Saleh's forces until southern independence, which they signed away in 1990, is restored.

Mr. Saleh also has to rebuild an impoverished economy battered further by the war and unlikely to get much help from a largely critical Western world.

And, crucially, he faces hostility from neighbours who determined to prevent him from creating another Iraq in the opposite corner of the Arabian peninsula.

Sanaa maintains that Mr. Beidh and his supporters represented a small faction in the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which won all southern seats in Yemen's first democratic elections last year.

Government sources in Sanaa said recently that Mr. Saleh was trying to form a new coalition government including YSP members and other southerners.

Despite persistent claims by Sanaa that it was only reacting to provocation by rebels and traitors, even southerners who had no sympathy for the formerly Marxist YSP were shocked by Mr. Saleh's determination to bring the south to heel, whatever the cost.

Northern sources have put the total number of casualties in the fighting that started on May 4 at about 7,000. No separate breakdown was available on how many were killed or wounded.

## King to meet Rabin on July 25

(Continued from page 1)

ped in and hosted the landmark White House ceremony at which Mr. Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook hands, effectively sending the Palestinians down the road to self-rule.

Mr. Christopher described the pending summit as "an event that transforms the landscape."

"The Middle East is really entering a new era," Mr. Christopher said, "and the opportunity to have that happen is one we wanted to grasp as soon as possible."

Mr. Christopher said the meeting, however, will not result in the signing of a peace treaty. He said it would "confirm and give concrete form to the interest of the leaders in moving toward a final rapprochement."

"It's essential that they move forward in these discussions and I am prepared to engage intensively with them," Mr. Christopher told reporters at the White House.

He said that his talks in the region would include the Jordanian, Palestinian and Syrian tracks.

The secretary of state also said that when he met with Arafat that he would point out "steps he must take to assure accountability" to countries that have pledged financial assistance to the Palestinians.

"I plan to meet with Chairman Arafat and to review with him the steps that we and the international community are taking to ensure that the Palestinians have the support they need," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Arafat has been urging donors to disburse pledged funds to help him get about the work of administering in the Palestinian self-rule territories.

Meanwhile, Jordanian and Israeli officials ended technical talks at a Dead Sea hotel on Friday to prepare for a groundbreaking meeting next week of Mr. Christopher and his Israeli and Jordanian counterparts.

"The two delegations ended their talks and left the hotel together," a hotel official told Reuters.

The Israeli team crossed into the Kingdom from the West Bank via the Jordan River bridge on Friday marking the first time any Israeli officials publicly set foot on Jordanian soil since 1948.

They were whisked to Jor-

By Youssef Azmeh  
Reuter

DUBAI — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, virtually isolated in a corner of the Arabian Peninsula, has moved quickly to repair ties with powerful Saudi-led Gulf Arabs who opposed his use of force to crush southern dissent.

Diplomats in the region said Mr. Saleh was apparently trying to preempt any action by his neighbours that may encourage southern leaders who fled abroad to foment trouble in southern areas which they signed away in 1990, is restored.

Mr. Saleh also has to reassure Saudi Arabia and others in the Gulf that Sanaa would be a good neighbour and that they should not see his ties with Iraq, Iran and Sudan as directed against them, the diplomats said.

Mr. Saleh summoned the Saudi ambassador to Sanaa on Sunday to pass on a message to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd expressing his government's "eagerness to turn over a new leaf in Yemeni-Saudi relations," Sanaa radio reported.

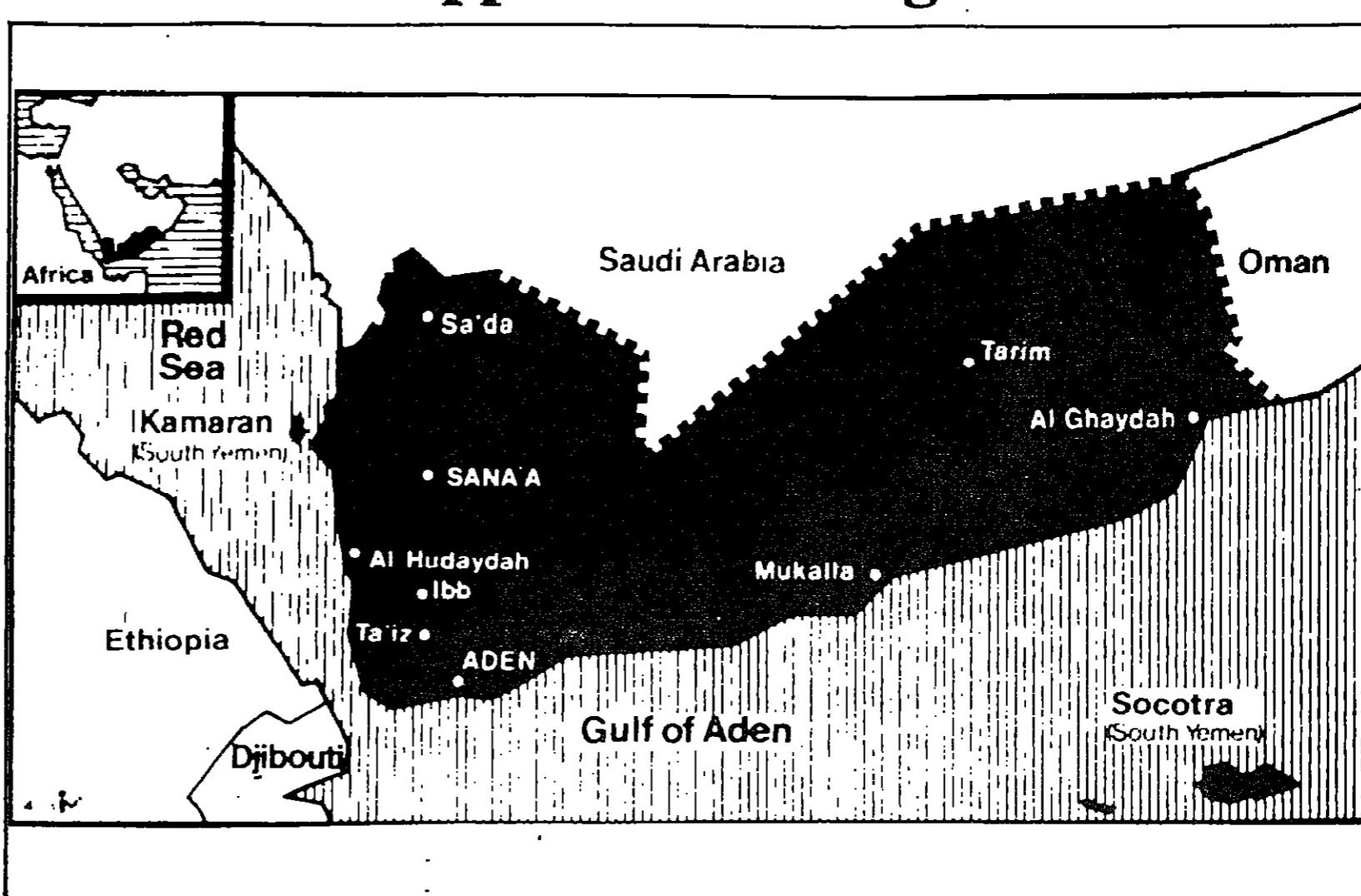
Mr. Saleh, who took control in the southern bastion of Aden last week after driving out secessionist opponents, has set repairing relations with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arabs as one of his top priorities.

His prime minister, Mohammad Said Al Attar, sent a letter to the U.N. only hours after Mr. Saleh's military victory on July 7, pledging, among other things, to promote relations with neighbours in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

Mr. Saleh called United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan by telephone the day after the fall of Aden, apparently trying to appease the one Gulf lead-

## Saleh moves to appease Gulf neighbours

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1994 7



er who has openly blamed him for using force against southern Yemenis.

Gulf diplomats said that these unusual overtures by a man trying busily to rebuild a country shattered by two months of civil war signalled Sanaa's deep worry about the consequences of continued hostility by angry and rich neighbours.

The moves came despite reports, rarely confirmed by named officials, that southern secessionists received significant military and financial aid from Gulf neighbours.

The diplomats said Mr. Saleh, now that he has won his war, was aware that the onus was on him to bring around Gulf states that have yet to forgive him for showing sympathy with Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Despite Mr. Saleh's approaches, Saudi Arabia had so far kept its distance and seems to be maintaining its hostility towards Sanaa. It has given refuge to Mr. Saleh's exiled opponents and lobbied hard at the U.N. and the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting of the world's richest nations to maintain Sanaa's isolation.

Gulf states fear that a strong, united Yemen of 13 million people in a thinly populated peninsula might covet their riches, they said.

Gulf states are also deeply suspicious of Sanaa's relations with the anti-Western regional powers and of Mr. Saleh's domestic alliance with Muslim fundamentalist forces antagonistic to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arabs, they added.

It urged Sanaa to resolve political differences through dialogue and peaceful means and "ensure that the humanitarian situation, particularly in and around Aden, is addressed," — words that reflected the official Saudi position.

But the statement only implicitly indicted Mr. Saleh's use of force, without naming him as the guilty party.

The diplomats said the West, led by the United States, had consistently refused to take sides openly in the Yemen conflict and maintained support for Yemen's integrity.

## Address to Congress significant

(Continued from page 1)

called Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to inform him about the Israel-Jordan program.

A Hebrew version of the Clinton talks translated by the AP said:

"I'm happy to announce today that the Jordan's King Hussein and the prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, have accepted my invitation to meet in the White House on July 25.

"This historic meeting is another big step forward in reaching a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

"The meeting is the result of dramatic progress reached in trilateral U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli talks here in Washington last month and of additional bilateral and trilateral meetings that will be held between the sides in the region next week with the participation of the United States."

"It reflects the courageous leadership and the brave vision that both King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin have demonstrated and are demonstrating in their joint effort to build a new future for their peoples and for the whole region."

"In the name of the American people, I salute this commitment to peace."

"I pledge to dedicate my efforts to the objective of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In this spirit, Secretary of State Christopher will travel to the region next week."

"He will continue with our efforts to make progress in the Israeli-American talks and will meet with Chairman Arafat in order to review the progress in implementing the declaration of principles of Palestinian self-rule."

The Middle East has entered a new era. We will do everything in our power so that all peoples of the region will enjoy the blessings of peace that they were deprived of for such a long time."

## Sanaa sets new measures

(Continued from page 1)

months.

The YSP had 61 deputies out of 301 in the pre-war parliament.

The assembly's work was paralysed by the long-running dispute between northerners and southern supporters of Mr. Beidh which followed the 1990 merger of the former Marxist South and conservative North Yemen.

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## Sacchi settles on Italian recipe

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Arrigo Sacchi's chopping and changing has driven the Italian fans to distraction but he seems to have come up with a winning blend for Sunday's World Cup final against Brazil.

"I've had to change the team around many times because of injury and because there were tactical or technical things I was not satisfied with," he said.

He has used 20 players in six games but he might have been tempted to stick to the semifinal side if Alessandro Costacurta had not been suspended for his second final this year. He also missed the European Cup final.

That might allow Franco Baresi, who needed arthroscopic surgery on his right knee 20 days ago after the dramatic win over Norway, to return to captain the side.

People Maldini had moved from left back to centre of the defence to fill in for his AC Milan club-mate.

However if Sacchi is not convinced Baresi is fully fit then Luigi Apollini, the Parma captain, should get his first start since the first-round game against Mexico.

Sacchi's biggest concern is Roberto Baggio who has virtually singlehandedly put Italy in the final with five goals in his last three games.

He limped off with a slight hamstring strain after an hour of Wednesday's 2-1 win over Bulgaria in their semifinal but his absence would be unthinkable.

Sacchi relishes the prospect of Sunday's challenge.

"I'd be lying if I said I had not dreamt of this final," he said.

"I have great respect for Brazilian soccer. Every time they win it is a triumph not just for Brazil but for the game itself."

However, he thought the present Brazil side played with more commitment under coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

"They played very hard," he said of Brazil's performance in the semifinal against Sweden.

"They created many more chances and they deserved to win although it took a mistake by Sweden for them to do it."

Sweden's tired defenders allowed Romario a free header at the far post for the winner and Sacchi said mistakes could prove decisive.

"If due to fatigue a team loses its shape and ability to pressurise the opposition, anything can happen," he said.

That's the time Baggio or Romario could be at their most dangerous.

Italy made a disastrous start to the tournament, losing 1-0 to Ireland and no team has gone on to win the Cup after losing their opening match.

Dino Baggio scored the winner against Norway when goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca was sent off. Daniele Massaro earned a point against Mexico and Italy qualified only because they had scored two goals in three games to Norway's one.

But just as in Spain in 1982 when Paolo Rossi's goals inspired Italy to their third title, Baggio finally started to live up to his reputation with two goals against Nigeria when Italy were within a minute of going out.

Both Baggios scored in the



### Today's match

Sweden will play Bulgaria for the third place at Pasadena, Calif. at 22.35 Amman time.

Mauro Tassotti's eight-match ban for breaking Luis Enrique's nose in an off-the-ball incident at the end of the quarter-final against Spain, forced Sacchi into one of three changes for the semifinal.

Roberto Mussi, who missed the Spain game because of an ankle injury, came in for Tassotti at right back and should keep his place on Sunday.

Inter Milan's Nicola Berti replaced Antonio Conte on the right of midfield and Pierluigi Casiraghi partnered Roberto Baggio up front instead of Daniele Massaro.

Giuseppe Signori, the top scorer in the Italian league for the last two seasons, is again likely to be sitting on the substitutes bench because Sacchi wants him to play in an unaccustomed wide midfield role.

All Italy will be hoping that Sacchi's recipe is a success.

Italy's probable team: Gianluca Pagliuca, Roberto Mussi, Luigi Appolloni, Alessandro Costacurta, Paolo Maldini, Antonio Benarivo, Nicola Berti, Dino Baggio, Demetrio Albertini, Roberto Donadoni, Roberto Baggio, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

## Joy in Rio, Rome as Brazil, Italy reach final

PASADENA (R) — Soccer proved an antidote for manyills Thursday as politicians, fans and even stock prices from Rome to Romania and Bulgaria to Brazil drew strength from the World Cup — in victory and defeat.

Brazil, where soccer is a unifying passion for a country beset by economic problems, exulted over Wednesday's 1-0 semifinal win over Sweden at the Pasadena Rose Bowl and the prospect of their first World Cup final since 1970.

Italy, their opponents in the same stadium Sunday, beat Bulgaria 2-1 at the Giants Stadium near New York to restore a sense of pride to a country stripped of its national pride after two years of political corruption.

But Italian euphoria was tempered by news that hero Roberto Baggio, who scored both goals for the triple champions Wednesday, has only a 50-50 chance of playing in the final, Italy's first since 1982.

"I fear that we won't know

until a few hours before the game whether he will play," team doctor Andrea Ferretti said in Martinsville, New Jersey. Baggio has a strained hamstring.

"Saint Baggio of New York," said La Voce newspaper in Italy, summing up the star's importance.

Bulgaria may have lost to Italy but police in Sofia said the country had won in another way — the crime rate dropped during the tournament. Swedish fans were subdued in Stockholm but proud to have gone down by just one goal to Brazil.

In Bucharest, the losing quarterfinalists returned to Romania as heroes, having done in 40 days what the government had failed to achieve in nearly five years since shaking off Stalinist dictatorship — put a smile on the nation's face.

"They showed the world who we are, we are proud of them," said school student Andrei Gheorghe as crowds chanted "we love you, we love you" at the team.

In the United States, semifinals winners and losers had at least two days to gather their strength before playing again.

Thursday and Friday were rest days ahead of Saturday's third-place playoff between Sweden and Bulgaria and Sunday's final, soccer's ultimate prize.

Both Brazil and Italy have won the title three times already, so on Sunday one of them will write a fresh record into the 64-year history of the World Cup.

Brazilian President Itamar Franco sent a congratulatory message to his country's team as newspapers there proclaimed "God is Brazilian" and stock prices surged four points. Even the government's fight against inflation took a back seat.

A rumbling roar of firecrackers and the pulsing beat of samba rolled across Brazil's cities Wednesday night, a noise echoed in Italy, where fans splashed in fountains and danced on piazzas.

Even Albanians, whose team failed to qualify for the finals, are gripped by soccer fever.



regularly gathered to show their support for the team. Below, fans of the Italian soccer team stand outside the team hotel hoping to get a glimpse of the team before they leave for Valencia. Italy will meet Brazil Sunday in the final. (AP) photos



## Swedes out of finals but pleased to have gone so far

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Swedes are out, but reaching the World Cup semifinals still ranks as one of the biggest accomplishments in Swedish sports history.

Rights up there with Ingemar Johansson capturing the world heavyweight title at Yankee Stadium in 1959; Bjorn Borg's five straight Wimbledon titles; and Ingemar Stenmark's record 85 World Cup Alpine ski victories in slalom and giant slalom.

But it is not over yet for the Swedish soccer stars. Bulgaria is next up in a match for the bronze medal at the Rose Bowl Saturday.

Goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli made the save in the quarterfinals, but he could not stop Romario's header

that ended Sweden's unbeaten run in the World Cup.

The Swedish veteran, making his 116th appearance for Sweden to break the old team record set in 1979, kept the outplayed Swedes in Wednesday's semifinal against Brazil for 79 minutes with a series of sparkling saves.

But Brazil, which outshot the Swedes 15-1 in the first half and 29-2 for the match, deservedly earned a berth in Sunday's final against Italy, as Romario beat the tournament's most experienced keeper with a header 11 minutes from time.

"I couldn't leave my line when (defender) Jorginho hit the cross," Ravelli said. "I stood on my line. Romario

came between two defenders I think and was first at the ball. He made a very good header. It was impossible for me to save it."

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson said it was not a defensive mistake.

"They had a lot of good opportunities (to score) and we felt that the first team to score would win today's match," Svensson said. "I thought Ravelli was excellent as was (Tomas) Brodin."

Brodin, who led defending champion Parma of Italy in scoring en route to the European Cup Winners' Cup final against England's Arsenal six weeks before the World Cup started, was very disappointed.

"But they were clearly the

better team," he said. "They really deserved the victory. In sports, there's always a loser. I just have to congratulate Brazil."

Brodin, who set up striker Kennet Andersson for the first goal in a 1-1 tie with Brazil June 29 at Pontiac's Silverdome, said Colombian referee Jose Torres made a mistake when he ejected Swedish key midfielder Jonas Thern in the second half.

The Swedes were surprised when they heard that a referee from Colombia, which borders Brazil, was assigned for the job.

"I think that the (Swedish) association should have filed a protest," Brodin said. "You bet that Brazil would have filed a protest if Dane Peter Mikkelsen or another European had been picked as ref."

## No going back to the future in football

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With an epic World Cup final promised Sunday between Brazil and Italy, World Cup watchers cannot help comparing the teams to the two who fought it out in the 1970 final.

Gigi Riva, Italian football's greatest ever goalscorer, expects history to repeat itself.

"The Brazilian team in 1970 had better technical players," Riva said. "Nobody could argue with that when you remember that they had players like Pele and Jairzinho in their team."

"But today's Brazilian side is very well organised, maybe even better organised than in

1970. They are the favourites and they know they are the favourites."

Mario Zagalo, who won the World Cup twice as a player in 1958 and 1962, and was banded the Brazilian coaching job on the eve of the 1970 final, is now an assistant coach.

He has blasted critics back home who complain that Brazil's style this time around is too far from the free-wheeling style of Pele's team.

"That was a once in a lifetime team," he said, adding that a well organised defence was as crucial in today's game as attacking flair.

"Without that, you have

extra time and when that goal went in we just evaporated. We had nothing left."

Brazil went on to triumph 4-1 and become the first side to lift the trophy three times.

This Brazilian team has suffered under the weight of expectations since well before the Cup began.

Zagalo recalled wryly that the 1970 team had no such problem.

"Before the 1970 World Cup, we were called idiots, no hoppers and donkeys, he said. "Now the team is legendary. Maybe the same thing would happen if we won again."

While Zagalo was brought on board as an adviser by

coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, Riva, whose astonishing international record of 35 goals in 42 matches earned him the nickname Thunderclap, officially performs the role of team manager to the Italian squad.

But his most significant contribution is as a counsellor to Roberto Baggio, helping the Italian side's current superstar to cope with the intense pressure of carrying the country's expectations on his back.

The sight of a weeping Baggio embracing Riva at the end of Wednesday's semifinal win over Bulgaria was one of the most memorable images of USA '94.

"He has helped me enormously because he is one of the few people who can understand what I have to go through," Baggio said.

And Riva has no doubt that Italy's chances of emulating their 1982 counterparts, who beat Brazil 3-2 on their way to victory in Spain, lie largely at the feet of Baggio.



Berti Vogts

## German coach Vogts hints he could quit

BONN (R) — Germany's soccer coach Berti Vogts, under acute pressure since his side were dumped out of the World Cup in the quarterfinals by unfancied Bulgaria, has hinted that he is prepared to quit.

Vogts, who took over the side after they won the Cup in 1990, suggested the German Soccer Federation (DFB) had not given him enough support.

"One false statement from DFB headquarters, from whatever direction, could mean my resignation," he said in an interview published in Thursday's edition of the sports magazine Kicker.

Since the defeat, a stunning blow for a team which had played in every World Cup final since 1982, Vogts said he still enjoyed his job, wanted to go on and had the backing of DFB President Egidius Braun.

But he told Kicker: "Perhaps it's sicker for the DFB to get rid of Vogts, the focus of the criticism of the

DFB."

Even before the defeat, Vogts and Braun had come under fire for sending home midfielder Stefan Effenberg for making an obscene gesture at the crowd.

But Vogts was unrepentant. "I always listened too much to what the players said. It was a mistake to take Effenberg. I should have thrown him out in 1992."

Vogts had harsh words for other players too.

He said midfielder Andreas Moeller, who had been expected at last to show on the international scene the prodigious talent he displays for Juventus in Italy, "completely let down the team and myself."

Of Bodo Illgner, the goalkeeper chosen for his World Cup experience but who was rooted to the spot when Bulgaria struck a crucial equaliser and who has now quit the national side, Vogts said: "It was as if he was on remote control. If he hadn't quit I'd have thrown him out."

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## Virenque wins Tour de France 12th stage

**LUZ ARDIDEN**, France (Agencies) — Richard Virenque claimed France's third consecutive stage win in the Tour de France, and Miguel Indurain extended his overall lead Friday as another top cyclist dropped out.

**Claudio Chippucci**, of Italy, who has finished in the top six of the tour since 1990, dropped out before the start of the 12th stage, plagued by a virus.

The stage of 204 kilometres (127 miles) had two major climbs, the famous tourmalet, 2,115 metres (6,937 feet) and Luz Ardiden, 1,715 metres (5,625 feet).

Virenque pulled far ahead of the pack, and only Marco Pantani of Italy stayed within five minutes of him starting the final climb to Luz Ardiden. Pantani ended up 4 minutes, 34 seconds behind.

Indurain and his Banesto teammates allowed Virenque and Pantani to gain the advantage because they trailed Indurain by more than 15 minutes each entering the day's leg.

Indurain came in more than seven minutes back but ahead of the main pack. His

main rival, Tony Rominger of Switzerland, lost more than three minutes to Indurain and is now 7:56 behind the three-time defending champion.

Chippucci was more than 33 minutes behind in the overall standings when he decided to stop. He barely moved from his hotel room during the off day in Lurdes Thursday, suffering from what his team manager said was an intestinal virus.

"Claudio wanted to go as far as possible but with a stage that is without doubt the most difficult of the tour, it was unrealisable," said the manager, Davide Boifava.

Boifava said Chippucci had a fever of more than 38 degrees C (100.4 F) Thursday evening.

Chippucci barely finished the 11th stage from Lourdes to Mount Hautacam Wednesday, ending up more than 24 minutes behind.

Saturday's 13th stage is from Bagneres de Bigorre to Albi, 233 kilometres (145 miles).

Barring illness or accident, Indurain seems assured of his fourth consecutive tour title.

## Kennett calls for inquiry into sabotage of Olympics

**MELBOURNE**, Australia (AP) — Victorian State Premier Jeff Kennett called Friday for a Senate inquiry into the operations of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), sparking an angry response from AOC President John Coates.

Kennett told a news conference that he had ruled out a state inquiry into allegations that Melbourne's unsuccessful bid to host the 1996 Olympic Games was sabotaged from within.

The premier said a state probe not be able to establish whether a Sydney-based Olympic official had undermined Melbourne's bid, but said a federal inquiry was needed to examine the accountability of AOC and whether any AOC delegates had a conflict of interest.

"It is important for Australia to have confidence in the AOC, given it is funded with millions of public dollars," Kennett said.

Coates said Kennett's call for a Senate inquiry was a "slur" on the AOC's integrity and said the holding of such an inquiry could affect Australia's ability to retain the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

The Sydney-based official, International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegate Phil Coles, was discovered to have made 44 telephone calls to his Atlanta counterparts during Melbourne's bidding process for the 1996 Games. Some Melbourne officials suspect him of passing key information to the Americans.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH

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### WHO NEEDS HIGH CARDS?

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**

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North East South West

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Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of

A multi-national partnership

between Polson of the U.S. and Michael Polson of the U.S. produced stellar defense on this hand from the 27th annual Israel Bridge Festival.

Despite a five-card fit for opener's suit, hence a source of tricks and a double stopper in the enemy suit, we think three no trump is a distinct stretch. However, had South been content with inviting game by bid,

ding just two no trump, he would still have fallen victim to the defenders' skill.

We reasoned that South had to have spades well stopped so cast about for a fit. The lead of the six of diamonds proved to be a winner. There's no hurry about taking the fineness—if the king of diamonds is onside, the queen will be a trick later. The choice lay between playing low and rising with the ace and declarer chose wisely by putting up the ace.

He then followed routinely with the ten declarer would have made the contract. After the ace of clubs was knocked out, East would have to win the second diamond and West would be an entry short to establish and run the suit. Polson rose to the occasion by jettisoning the king of diamonds.

He then followed routinely with the ten declarer would have made the contract. After the ace of clubs was knocked out, East would have to win the second diamond and West would be an entry short to establish and run the suit. Polson rose to the occasion by jettisoning the king of diamonds.

The queen and jack of clubs were down. West led the three of the third round. Then came the killer—the jack of diamonds, pinning East's ten and permitting West to set up the diamonds while the ace of hearts was still in hand as an entry. There was no way to prevent the defenders from collecting three diamonds and three aces. Down two!

## Olympic volleyball site could be moved over anti-gay resolution

**ATLANTA** (AP) — Organisers of the 1996 Olympics, hounded for months over their decision to hold volleyball competition in a suburb that adopted an anti-gay resolution, are close to picking an alternate site.

**Billy Payne**, president of the Atlanta committee for the Olympic Games, said Wednesday that organisers are "very close" to confirming that a substitute arena would meet the criteria of being affordable, accessible and acceptable to athletes.

The preliminary rounds of volleyball are now scheduled for the Cobb Galleria Centre, a new convention center about 15 miles (23 km) from downtown Atlanta. But the Cobb County commission's approval last year of a resolution condemning homosexuality has sparked a hailstorm of protest and put pressure on the committee to find another venue.

"We are disappointed that

no compromise has been forthcoming between the Cobb County commission and the special interest groups involved in the debate there," Payne said after a meeting of the Olympic committee's board of directors.

"The lack of any movement toward resolving that situation gives even more urgency to our efforts to explore all possible alternatives," he said.

Payne's comments are his strongest to date. He previously has said only that Olympic organisers were considering other sites, while emphasising he considered the resolution on gays to be a local matter.

A decision on the volleyball site would be made by the end of the year, he said.

Olympic gold medallist Greg Louganis, who is gay, last week urged officials to move volleyball out of Cobb County.

Leaders of a gay rights organisation, Olympics out of Cobb, held a news conference Thursday outside a downtown Atlanta Olympics souvenir store to urge Payne to pick another site now.

"Why make this a more divisive issue than it is already?" said Jon-Ivan Weaver, co-chairman of the group. "The Atlanta committee for the Olympic games has been looking at sites for several years now. They know the sites are available. They know they have another choice."

Payne was in Washington Thursday and could not be reached for further comment.

Despite widespread criticism, Cobb commissioners have stood by the resolution that passed last August. The commission last month defeated a proposed companion resolution that affirmed the county's support for human rights.

## Courier gives U.S. 1-0 lead in Davis Cup tie with Dutch



Jim Courier

aggressive volleying and sweating in the oppressive heat as he moved scurrying about the court.

Edberg, currently ranked

seven in the world, broke

Boetsch's serve twice in a row

to win the first set in 39

minutes. The Frenchman,

who had lost his six previous

matches against Edberg, had

no answer to the Swede's

first round in May and out of

Wimbledon in the second

round last month, relaxed in

the third set offering Boetsch

several opportunities to close

the gap.

But the Frenchman, rank-

ed 22 in the world, was too

inconsistent to seize his

chance and Edberg eventual-

ly won the match 7-4 on the

tie-break.

## Boxing promoter Don King indicted for fraud

**NEW YORK** (AP) — Don King, who has promoted the world's top boxers, was charged Thursday with filing a phony insurance claim for losses on a 1991 match that was cancelled.

The 21-year-old England B striker has agreed a five-year contract with Rovers, which will keep him at Ewood Park until 1999.

King, who scored 28 goals for Norwich last season, added that as long as a month ago he had made up his mind that he wanted to join Black-

burn and their manager Ken-Daigish.

"I am just very pleased to end the speculation and sign for a club that is obviously going places," he explained.

Blackburn were my first choice. The club is similar to Norwich in terms of population and area. I didn't want to move to a big city."

King was convicted of murder in 1954 but the charge was later reduced to manslaughter.

While serving time in Ohio's Marion Correctional Institute, King got his big break when he contacted Ali and went on to sign the boxing great and George Foreman to a \$10-million fight in Zaire in 1974.

Ali regained his title in that match and followed up the victory by defeating Joe Frazier in a rematch in 1975.

King is in the best interests of the AOC that a proper inquiry be established to review its operations," he said.

**IOC Vice-President Kevan Gosper** welcomed Kennett's decision not to hold a state inquiry and said he hoped it would be accepted "magnanimously by the people of Melbourne."

## Lendl rallies to defeat Grabb in U.S. Pro Tennis Championships

**BROOKLINE, Mass.** (AP)

Ivan Lendl, sidelined since late May with back pain, returned Thursday night and rallied for a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 win over Jim Grabb in the second round of the U.S. Pro Tennis Championships.

Lendl, who had not played

since losing to Arnaud

Boetsch in the first round of

the French Open, was down a

set and trailing 2-1 in the

second set when he won six

straight games.

"I just wasn't match tough. I didn't play any matches for 7 1/2 weeks," said Lendl, whose ranking had dropped to 29th in the world. "I was feeling better as the match went along. That's why I went along. That's why I came here, to get in some matches."

Grabb said it would be a

mistake to write off Lendl

just yet.

"He's a guy who was on

top of the game for so long,

who has lost a half a step or

doesn't hit the ball as sharply

as he used to," Grabb said.

"But on any given day, he can recapture that form and is very dangerous."

Patrick McEnroe, who has

dropped just three games in

two matches, took only 54

minutes to defeat Mike Zim-

erman and reach the quar-

terfinals.

"What am I, Steffi Graf?"

McEnroe joked after winning

6-2, 6-0 and displaying the

dominance Graf usually

shows in women's tennis.

McEnroe, seeded seventh,

won the last 12 games in a

6-1, 6-0 defeat of Justin

Gimelstob in 55 minutes in

the first round.

McEnroe will face Jimmy

Arias in the quarterfinals.

Arias, a former teen star

whose career has been rid-

den of injuries, won 2-6,

&lt;p

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israelis want army to halt settler violence

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Six out of 10 Israelis believe the army should intervene to stop Jewish settlers from attacking Palestinians and their property, according to an opinion poll published Friday. However, 35 per cent were against soldiers halting settler violence compared with 63 per cent in favour. Two percent voiced no opinion. Some 58 per cent also believed the army should clear roadblocks put up by settlers. Forty-one per cent were against and three per cent without opinion. And 58 per cent also said soldiers should stop settlers from illegally occupying empty houses on the West Bank. But 40 per cent were against military intervention. A week ago dozens of settlers squatted several empty apartments in Kyriat Arba, near Hebron, and pulled out only after the government ordered the army to evict them. The Dafah institute questioned 505 Israelis last Tuesday and Wednesday for the poll which has a margin of error of four per cent.

### Police arrest 600 Palestinian workers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Police arrested 600 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and West Bank this week who did not have permits to stay in Israel, police said. The Palestinians, arrested at construction sites and factories, each had to pay a 250-shekel (\$75) fine before being sent back to the West Bank or Gaza. Israeli employers had to pay the equivalent of \$700 for each illegal worker. Some 50,000 Palestinians have permits to stay and work in Israel — less than half the pre-Gulf war number.

### Bashir effects minor cabinet reshuffle

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese President Omar Bashir has carried out a minor cabinet reshuffle, appointing a new interior minister. Sudanese television revealed late Thursday. Following a presidential decree, Colonel Altayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair, formerly governor of Darfur, receives the interior portfolio, replacing General Abdurrahim Mohammad Hussein. Gen. Hussein was named minister of presidential affairs, doing essentially the same job as the presidency secretary general, a lower-ranking post he had combined with the interior ministry. Kabush Kokoi takes over the communications and tourism portfolio previously held by Ibrahim Nayil Edan. Mr. Kokoi moves from the ministry for social planning. Gen. Edan moves from the ministry for social planning. Gen. Edan was one of the 15 members of the Revolutionary Council that propelled Gen. Bashir to power five years ago but was dissolved last October.

### U.N. missile inspectors head for Iraq

MANAMA (R) — A United Nations inspection team left for Baghdad on Friday to study Iraq's missile research and development programme, a U.N. official said. Spokesman Roald Opsahl said the 13-member team, headed by Norbert Reinecke of Germany, would stay in Iraq for 10 days. U.N. teams are pressing to set up long-term monitoring of Iraqi facilities related to its banned weapons systems, a prerequisite to easing or lifting an oil and trade embargo.

### Egypt to expel Kuwaiti linked to militants

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt planned to expel a Kuwaiti accused of financing Islamic militant groups bent on overthrowing President Hosni Mubarak's secular government, a source close to the security services said. Abdul Rahman Al Mejeib was arrested here in March when "he gave two Egyptians money for families of militants killed in clashes with security services," the source said. The Kuwaiti told a state prosecutor he had "been sent by a Kuwaiti Islamic organisation to check up on charity projects financed by this group in some Egyptian provinces," the source said. Islamic fundamentalists in Kuwait said Mr. Mejeib had been given a permit from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and did charity work in Egypt. Several Kuwaiti officials visiting Egypt recently urged authorities here to release Mr. Mejeib, a Kuwaiti diplomat said. In an editorial here, the pro-government daily Al Ahram said "Egypt protested about the way aid was given by charity associations from the Arab country," referring to Kuwait. Egypt wants this aid to be distributed through official channels "so that it is not directed in support of fundamentalism," wrote the newspaper's managing editor, Ibrahim Nafee, who is close to Mr. Mubarak. During a tour of Arab Gulf monarchies including Kuwait last year Mr. Mubarak urged the authorities to monitor more carefully fundraising by non-government religious groups. He warned the money could fall into the hands of Islamic militants in Egypt.

### Jordan accepts U.S. invitation

(Continued from page 1)

Referring to the Armed Forces, the King said: "We duty in defending the nation, to do the impossible to have a strong Armed Forces to carry out its national world."

## Qouriea seeks to allay Jordanian concern, but Amman remains sceptical

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials remained sceptical Friday over prospects for economic cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) despite efforts by a senior PLO official to reassure the Kingdom that the organisation remained committed to such relations.

"It is known that Abu Alaa favours strong economic ties with Jordan and would like to see the accord signed," said a senior Jordanian source, "but that does not mean that higher-ups in the PLO share this view."

It was a reference to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who reportedly is very critical of the accord that Abu Alaa helped draft in May outlining the modalities of Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation.

According to Palestinian sources, Mr. Arafat and a few of his close aides, including political department head Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO chairman's deputy in the Palestinian Economic council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), see the accord as limiting their options and giving Jordan what they see as a more-than-essential role in the economy of the Palestinians.

Particularly opposed by the critics are Jordanian suggestions that the PLO open an account at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in dinars to handle international aid expected to be channelled to the autonomous territories and the CBJ be given a role in licensing all commercial banks in the occupied territories, the sources said.

"It is highly unlikely that the PLO leadership will accept these suggestions," said one of the sources.

However, he declined to specify any timing for the expected signing.

"There are no differences between the two leaderships or the Jordanian and Palestinian people," Abu Alaa said.

"Their relations do not depend on any agreements, whether written or otherwise."

International experts and diplomats say the Jordanian suggestions are very valid, given the fact that the Jordanian dinar is one of the prominent currencies in circulation in the occupied territories and almost every bank there would be operating accounts in dinars.

"Obviously, Mr. Arafat has his own approach, and that is not compatible with the argument that Jordan has to have a strong say in the occupied lands by virtue of its currency," said a foreign diplomat.

"In any case, the whole nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship at the leadership level is under clouds," added the diplomat, expressing an opinion that is widely shared among Jordanians.

Abu Alaa restated on Thursday that the PLO leadership was preoccupied with the "political developments" and that this was one of the main reasons for the delay in ratifying the May accord.

That justification, heard quite often in the past two months from Tunis, has not gone down well with Jordan, which is anxious to know where the Kingdom stands in terms of economic cooperation between the two banks of the River Jordan.

Jordanian officials have conveyed their views to the PLO through different channels and sought a clear PLO position on the draft. But, analysts and diplomats say, a definite answer could come only from Mr. Arafat, and he is not talking about the agreement either.

Doubts were cast on the implementation of the Jan. 7 accord when Israel and the PLO signed an agreement in Paris in April outlining modalities and mechanisms for economic ties between the Jewish state and the autonomous territories.

The Israel-PLO accord.

(Continued on page 3)

## Lifting of Iraq sanctions will hurt Algeria — U.S.

PARIS (R) — A senior U.S. official said on Friday the fear of destabilising Algeria through a world drop in oil prices was a key reason why Washington opposed lifting international sanctions against Iraq.

He said allowing Iraq back into the international oil market would push prices down to \$10-\$12 a barrel from a current level of around \$16.

The official, briefing reporters on U.S. policy in the Near East and North Africa, said: "If... you were to allow Iraq to the international oil market, in six months Iraq would probably be exporting between one and a half and two million barrels a day.

"It is a major success for the council what has been done so far. The monitoring and verification procedures should be fully in place in September," Mr. Ekeus told the council, according to U.N. spokesman Joe Sills.

"The government of Iraq is doing a good job," Mr. Sills quoted Ekeus as saying.

The U.N. team's long-term verification and control of Iraq's military capacity is expected to begin in late September but it will take six months to test the apparatus, the Swedish diplomat told the U.N. Security Council in a closed-door session.

That means it will be March before the U.N. team will be able to report to the council on the results of its labours. Iraq, which is hoping that the oil embargo will soon be lifted has been cooperating with the United Nations in installing cameras and other devices which can be used to monitor Iraq's weapon's programmes.

The Security Council is expected to reexamine the sanctions before Monday but has

ruled out any immediate modifications in the sanctions regime, Western diplomats said.

Setting up the long-term monitoring procedure is the single portion of the ceasefire agreement not in place.

In a report to the U.N. Security Council, Mr. Ekeus said that all weapons of mass destruction revealed by Iraq had been dismantled by the U.N. team shortly after the Gulf war ended in 1991.

"Declared or otherwise identified chemical weapons, precursors and means for their production have been destroyed," the report said.

Declared biological research facilities were also closed and biological strains of concern to the commission disposed of.

"The commission now believes that it has a credible accounting for all of Iraq's missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres and that such missiles remaining in Iraq after the termination of hostilities have been destroyed," the report said.

Mr. Ekeus said that uncertainties persisted about Iraq's military programmes before the Gulf war since Baghdad has insisted that paperwork on the programme was destroyed.

"It has been necessary to resort to other and more time-consuming procedures to verify Iraq's accounts of its past programmes," said Mr. Ekeus.

## Christopher to devote intense work to Israel-Syria track

WASHINGTON (USA) — State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said on Thursday cautioning reporters not to anticipate any type of "breakthrough" during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip to the Middle East this week "because the distance between the parties is great."

Noting there have been "enormously positive developments within the region," such as the implementation of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles and international assistance that is going into the building of peace structures, McCurry said, "This is an opportunity for the secretary to review that progress; it is also an opportunity to review progress on the other tracks."

Mr. Christopher expects "that this step-by-step process will only take one more step, hopefully forward, as a result of this trip," McCurry added. The secretary is scheduled to leave Washington for the Middle East on July 17. Later he will fly to Bangkok to attend the Asian Association of Southeast Asian Nations post-ministerial consultations and to confer bilaterally with foreign ministers.

Mr. McCurry said "some type of tripartite meeting" could be expected "on the Jordanian track" of the Middle East peace process. Israeli officials have already said Christopher will meet with Israeli and Jordanian leaders July 20. "There will be some very careful and intensive work on the Israel-Syria track" of the negotiations as well, the spokesman said.

AFP adds: The Palestinians and Israelis on Monday will resume their talks in Cairo on extending Palestinian autonomy beyond Jericho and the Gaza Strip.



FLIGHT: A Rwandan refugee crosses the Zairean border at Goma with thousands of compatriots fleeing the Rwandan Patriotic Front advance on the northwestern Rwandan town of Gisenyi. Rwanda's interim government left Gisenyi for the southwestern town of Cyangugu, where the French intervention force in Rwanda is based (see page 5) (AFP photo)

## COLUMN

### Queen Elizabeth's niece marries former actor

LONDON (AP) — Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, the daughter of Princess Margaret, was married to former actor Daniel Chatto. Thursday in a simple ceremony at an out-of-the-way church in London. The wedding was a small, family affair, but crowds of photographers and curiosity-seekers choked the pavement outside the Church of St. Stephen, Walbrook for a glimpse of the famous relatives. Lady Sarah, a 30-year-old artist, avoids the limelight but has been regularly with Mr. Chatto for about seven years. Mr. Chatto, 37, who appeared in several films, is now an artist. The bride, in a simple, flowing white gown and veil, arrived with her father, the photographer Lord Snowdon. A cheer went up for Princess Diana, and a few minutes later a big cheer went to her estranged husband Prince Charles and his grandmother the Queen Mother, who arrived in the same limousine. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip — the bride's aunt and uncle — looked happy and relaxed. Princess Margaret, the queen's only sister, chatted amiably with her ex-husband Lord Snowdon. Also there were the bride's brother, furniture designer Lord Linley, the queen's son Prince Edward and his girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones, and the queen's daughter Princess Anne, whose daughter Zara, 13, was a bridesmaid. The 17th century church, built by Sir Christopher Wren in what is now the financial district, seats about 200 people in a circle around the altar. The reception was held at Clarence House, the London home of the bride's grandmother, the Queen Mother. Although they are grandchildren of King George VI, Lady Sarah and her brother are commoners. Under rules drawn up by King George V in 1917, children of a sovereign's daughter do not become their royal highnesses.

Princess Anne's children are just plain Peter and Zara Phillips. As Princess Margaret once observed: "My children are not royal, their aunt just happens to be the queen." In the evening, Daniel and Lady Sarah Chatto flew to Delhi, India, on a scheduled British Airways flight from London's Heathrow Airport.

The two leaders agreed that they would cope with any changes in the North Korean situation by cooperating closely, resolutely, prudently and without haste," the spokesman said.

Mr. Clinton informed Mr. Kim that Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama had told him during the G-7 summit Tokyo would maintain cooperation on North Korea with Seoul and Washington.

On Friday, Japan issued its annual defence white paper which said North Korea's long-range missiles and its suspected plans to develop nuclear, chemical and biological warheads posed a grave threat to Japan and the Far East.

Defence Ministry counsellor Hirotsugu Ota said Japan had no contingency plans at present to counter a military threat from North Korea.

"But we would have to consider certain measures in the future if North Korea went ahead with its missile development," he said without elaborating.

The Seoul spokesman said Mr. Clinton and Mr. Kim had a "comprehensive but concrete" exchange to prepare for any changes in North Korea's political situation, nuclear policies and the suspended inter-Korean summit, but declined to give details.

Kim Il-Sung's sudden death last Friday came at a time of apparently easing tensions between North Korea and the West, raising questions in Seoul and Washington as to whether the process will be continued under new leaders in Pyongyang.

Kim Il-Sung had been due to meet Kim Young-Sam for an unprecedented inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang on July 25, which was seen as a major opportunity to end cold war enmity that has persisted since the division of Korea.

Meanwhile, Overseas Koreans visiting Pyongyang for Kim Il-Sung's funeral were received by Kim Jong-Il.

The visitors reportedly included pro-Pyongyang ethnic Koreans from Japan, a well-connected Korean American businesswoman, and anti-South Korean activists.

The altar in Kwangju was found when some 1,200 riot policemen stormed Chonnam University to break up a sit-in by striking workers of Kumho Tyre Co. early Friday, triggering a pitched battle with teargas.

Police detained 20 including two of the striking workers of South Korea's largest tire manufacturer, in Kwangju.

PARIS (AP) — Danielle Mitterrand has been hospitalised for tests and was to undergo surgery for an undisclosed disorder, a spokeswoman for the French first lady said. Mrs. Mitterrand, 69, was admitted to a hospital about two weeks ago and the operation was expected "in the coming days" after the tests are completed, the spokeswoman said in a telephone interview on customary anonymity. The spokeswoman declined to elaborate and refused to describe Mrs. Mitterrand's health problem or characterise its seriousness. But she added: "Any operation is serious for a person of that age." Reporters asked about her absence at the traditional Bastille Day garden party Thursday at the Elysee Palace, the official residence of President Francois Mitterrand. As president of France-Liberes, a humanitarian and human rights foundation, Mrs. Mitterrand has refused to accept the traditional low-profile role of the French first lady since her husband was elected in 1981.

Yeltsin has cold, misses meeting

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin missed a meeting of the Russian government Friday because of a cold, a spokesman said. "He has a simple cold and all his meetings have been postponed to next week. The president is in Moscow but not working in the Kremlin," the spokesman said. Mr. Yeltsin, 63, had been scheduled to take part in a government meeting Friday morning. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was due to report on economic results of the first six months of the year.

French first lady hospitalised

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Experts and diplomats in Washington expressed hopes that progress between Israel and Jordan could induce Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad to make concessions.

For different reasons, Israelis and Syrians both appear to want the United States, a co-sponsor of the peace process, to become more actively involved. Another tour by Mr. Christopher is in the works for August, according to informed sources.

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